

Jordan Times

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Palestinian team leaves for Tunis

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation representing Palestinian refugee camps and other Palestinian groups in Jordan left for Tunis Saturday to express support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) leadership. A report in Al Ra'i newspaper Saturday said that the delegation, comprising 25 leading Palestinian personalities carry statements signed by Palestinians living in Jordan denouncing Syrian-Libyan interference in Palestinian internal affairs and condemning support for the PLO dissidents in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. The delegation is one of several others that have been visiting Tunis from around the Arab World to express support for the PLO and its leader Yasser Arafat.

Habre forces recapture Faya-Largeau

N'DJAMENA (R) — The northern Chad town of Faya-Largeau, held by rebel forces, was retaken Saturday by the government forces of President Hissene Habre, the Chadian military command announced. A military command communiqué said the northern stronghold of former President Goukouni Oueddei was retaken at 1300 GMT. The communiqué said Libyan planes and armoured cars tried to defend the town which Mr. Oueddei's rebel forces seized last month. (Photo on page 2)

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King cables good wishes to Swiss

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable of good wishes to the president of the Swiss Confederation on Switzerland's national day anniversary. In his cable King Hussein wished the Swiss people further progress and prosperity.

Kuwait buys French fighters

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait said Saturday it had signed a contract with a French company to buy fighter planes and transport aircraft for senior military personnel. An official statement issued by the Kuwaiti Defence Ministry said the contract was signed by Abdul Razak Al Khamis, the ministry's under-secretary, and a representative of the French company which it did not name.

Havana expels U.S. Marine

HAVANA (R) — A Marine guard at the U.S. interest section here has been ordered to leave Cuba within 24 hours for wearing a T-shirt with "Cuba Yes, Fidel No" emblazoned across it, diplomatic sources said Saturday. They said the expulsion order came from the Foreign Ministry after complaints from locals.

Youth shot dead in N. Ireland

BELFAST (R) — Security forces shot dead a youth in Northern Ireland early Saturday, police said. The incident, in the southern town of Armagh, involved a patrol from the predominantly part-time Ulster Defence Regiment.

Bomb found under church pews

LONDON (R) — Churchgoers in a south England parish prayed for salvation kneeling just a breath away from a cache of deadly explosives. Builders doing restoration work at St. Mary's Anglican Church in Reigate, Surrey, removed a pew and found a bundle of six sticks of gelignite and six detonators under floorboards. Police said the explosives might have been left in the church, which has a Sunday congregation of 500 worshippers, by Home Guard (part-time) troops at the end of World War II.

Raymond Massey dies

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actor Raymond Massey, who appeared in more than 60 films and was best known for his portrayal of Abraham Lincoln, has died in Los Angeles at the age of 86, a hospital spokesman said Saturday.

David Niven to be buried Tuesday

CHATEAU D'OEX, Switzerland (R) — The funeral of British actor David Niven, who died Friday aged 73, will take place in this Swiss mountain resort next Tuesday, a family spokesman said Saturday. British actor Roger Moore, star of the James Bond films, has already arrived for the funeral, the spokesman said. (Obituary on page 8)

Iraq says Iranians routed in north front

GALALA, northern Iraq (R) — Iraq's commander in the northern Gulf war front said Saturday Iranian troops had been driven out of all territory captured in their offensive in the area a week ago.

"Iraqi troops now control the whole area," Major-General He'ma Faris Hussein, commander of Iraq's First Army Corps, told correspondents visiting the battlefield.

"Not a single Iranian soldier now exists on Iraqi territory in this area," he said.

Gen. Hussein put Iranian casualties in the north in the past 10 days at nearly 9,000 and said four artillery batteries, two jet fighters and three helicopter gunships had been among a huge amount of Iranian equipment and armour destroyed.

Correspondents were taken to the towns of Galala and Chouman and the area around Mount Karmend, recaptured by Iraqi commandos after an airborne assault on Thursday.

Iranian shells continued to land close to Iraqi positions during the correspondents' tour.

Gen. Hussein also said the garrison town of Haj Omran, which Iraq claimed it captured on the first day of its offensive, was under full Iraqi control.

"The Iranians never entered the place," he said.

Gen. Hussein praised Kurdish militiamen who fought alongside Iraqi regular troops during the battle, saying "they proved to be great fighters."

Correspondents saw many Kurdish fighters armed with machine-guns and rocket-propelled grenades occupying positions around Mount Karmend.

New offensive foiled

The Iraqi commander said Iranian losses in the north would weaken Iran's position in the central sector of the war front, where it launched a new offensive early Saturday.

A military communiqué earlier said the offensive, near Zurbatiyah, 160 kilometres east of Baghdad, had been repulsed and the attacking force wiped out.

The communiqué described the new Iranian offensive as "an abortive attempt to invade Iraqi land to cover their failure in the battles of Karmend mountain peak."

Iraq said Friday it had recaptured the Karmend peak, which overlooks Haj Omran, after its paratroopers dropped behind Iranian lines in "one of the greatest commando operations in the history of the Iraqi army."

Iran had claimed it captured Haj Omran, which it said had been used to supply Kurdish rebels in Iran, and several surrounding peaks on the first day of its northern offensive a week ago.

State television screened two films of the Karmend operation, showing Iraqi commandos dropping from helicopter gunships onto the mountain after heavy artillery shelling and air raids.

It also showed scores of Iranian troops surrendering to advancing Iraqi forces.

Another Iraqi communiqué said Iraqi planes made 125 sorties against Iranian positions in the central sector and attacked "remnants of fleeing enemy troops east of Zurbatiyah, setting fire to several tanks and armoured vehicles."

Helicopter gunships made 93 sorties in support of Iraqi units opposing the latest Iranian offensive, destroying seven tanks, nine armoured personnel carriers, 15 military trucks and 15 troop emplacements, it said.

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GUNMEN ON THE VIGIL: Lebanese militia armed with machine-guns and recoil-less guns Friday guard an ancient strategic castle in the centre of the north Lebanese city of Tripoli. The castle, along with several other key

positions, was evacuated by Syrian troops Thursday and several groups of Lebanese gunmen vied with each other to gain control of the posts (A.P. wirephoto)

PLO leader calls for Arab intervention to stop Israeli killings of Palestinians

TUNIS (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Saturday appealed to Arab heads of state for urgent intervention to stop the killings of Palestinians in Lebanon and Israeli-held territories.

In the appeal issued by the Palestinian agency WAFA and reported by the Tunisian agency TAP, Mr. Arafat denounced the killings of Palestinians by Israeli forces in occupied areas and "Syrian-Libyan attacks" against Palestinian guerrilla positions in north Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley.

"What is happening now is only a prelude to a new massacre like that of Tel Za'atar," Mr. Arafat added, referring to a siege and attack in 1976 of a Palestinian refugee camp near Beirut in which Syrian troops and Lebanese Falangist militiamen were involved at various stages.

Mr. Arafat asked Arab heads of state to "intervene urgently to put an end to the sufferings endured in the Bekaa and north Lebanon... and in the occupied territories."

He said the numerous killings in the occupied territories were "the implementation of the criminal Zionist plan to terrorise the Palestinian population and force it into exile."

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader charged that Syrians and Libyans were "using heavy weapons, rockets

and tanks, and setting siege in order to prevent the supply of the bases in arms and ammunition given to us by our Arab brothers."

He added that despite mediation efforts to heal a rift within the PLO and with Syria, he had come up against "a greater determination in the implementation of the plan for the political and organic liquidation of the PLO."

Pro-Arafat fighters and rebels headed by dissident commanders in Mr. Arafat's mainstream Fatah commando group have fought sporadically in the Bekaa Valley for the past week in the bloodiest flare-up of the 12-week-old revolt.

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Shaky ceasefire holds between Fateh factions

BEIRUT (R) — Week-long clashes between rival Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) guerrilla factions subsided Saturday and a shaky ceasefire appeared to be holding.

A Reuters correspondent in the area said only occasional shots were heard Saturday morning in the Bekaa Valley village of Jdita, focus of the recent fighting around the crossroads town of Shioura.

However, both sides were reinforcing and the situation could explode again at any time.

Fighters loyal to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and rebels headed by dissident commanders in Mr. Arafat's mainstream Fatah commando group have fought sporadically for the past week in the bloodiest flare-up of the 12-week-old revolt.

A loyalist spokesman in the northern city of Tripoli told Reuters

that a ceasefire was agreed at 10 p.m. (2000 GMT) Friday night, but he had no information whether it had held overnight.

Right-wing Falangist radio said clashes continued till dawn.

The fighting, with mortars and heavy weapons, shattered a three-week truce worked out by a team of PLO mediators. Neither side has claimed any significant military advantage over the past week and both have refused to release any firm casualty toll.

Local politicians demanded an end to the clashes and called for the combatants to quit residential areas and close down the guerrilla offices that dot the agricultural towns and villages of the Bekaa.

A statement issued after a meeting in a cinema in the town of Baalbek warned that local people might resort to "negative means" to protect themselves.

The aim of the visit, Mr. Ibrahim said at a meeting with the refugee representatives, "is to bolster relations between citizens and the government and to have a first-hand look at the problems which the camps complain of and find solutions for them."

Mr. Ibrahim was speaking during an inspection tour of the two Palestinian camps together with Interior Minister Ahmad Obeidat and other officials to review health services offered to the refugees and to hear demands and requests by refugee representatives for improvement in public services.

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Mu'ta University to open next year

By Majid Asfour
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Mu'ta University will officially open its doors for studies on Sept. 1, 1984, university Vice-President Ali Mahafza announced here Saturday.

He said that the university's Royal Commission has decided that the university should begin its first academic year on that date and special teams are now busy preparing plans and making studies for completing construction work.

Mu'ta University is being set up on a site previously acquired by the Martyr Faisal College which had an overall area of 60,000 square metres, Dr. Mahafza said. An additional 18,000 square metres are being added to it and the new buildings are also being built so that Mu'ta University will incorporate the buildings of the Martyr Faisal College, which have been purchased by the university, and the new premises, in addition to sports grounds and military training fields.

According to Dr. Mahafza, JD 3 million will be spent on the new buildings and another JD 3 million on providing them with furniture and equipment for laboratories.

He said that Mu'ta University will offer the following courses at the start of 1984 academic year: military sciences, mathematics, statistics, physics, chemistry, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, Arabic, English, law, management and accountancy, in addition to police sciences.

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MIDDLE EAST

Iran reports executing 8 Mujahedeen members

TEHRAN (R) — Eight members of the outlawed Mujahedeen-e-Khalq guerrilla group have been executed in Iran for involvement in ousted President Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr's 1981 escape to France, the National news agency IRNA said Saturday.

The IRNA report, which referred to the Mujahedeen as "munafiqin" (hypocrites), said they were executed on Thursday. It gave no further details.

Mr. Bani-Sadr was dismissed by Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in June 1981 after losing a power struggle and being declared incompetent by parliament.

He later fled to France in an Iranian air force plane, helped by members of the Mujahedeen and accompanied by their leader, Masoud Rajavi, who also now lives in Paris.

IRNA said another Mujahedeen member involved in Mr. Bani-Sadr's escape had been killed in a raid on a Mujahedeen hide-out, while three others had been sentenced to death in their absence.

It gave no details of the raid on the hide-out and did not name the people involved.

The agency said another Mujahedeen sympathiser had been jai-

led for 10 years for giving money to the organisation.

The Mujahedeen is an old-established group with an ideology combining militant Islam and Marxism.

The guerrillas took part in the revolution which overthrew the Shah in 1979, but later split from the followers of Ayatollah Khomeini, who branded them hypocrites who pretended to be Muslims but were not.

In the summer of 1981, the Mujahedeen waged a violent campaign against the revolutionary leadership.

They were blamed for a big bomb attack which killed 72 people at the headquarters of the Islamic Republican Party and another which killed the then President and prime minister, Mohammed Ali Rajai and Mohammed Bahonar.

The authorities took tough action to crush the Mujahedeen and in recent months there has been little sign of the group being active

in Iran.

Ex-navy chief on trial

TEHRAN (R) — The Iranian authorities said Saturday that the former commander of the navy, Capt. Bahram Afzali, had been a member of the outlawed Tudeh Communist Party and would go on trial within a month.

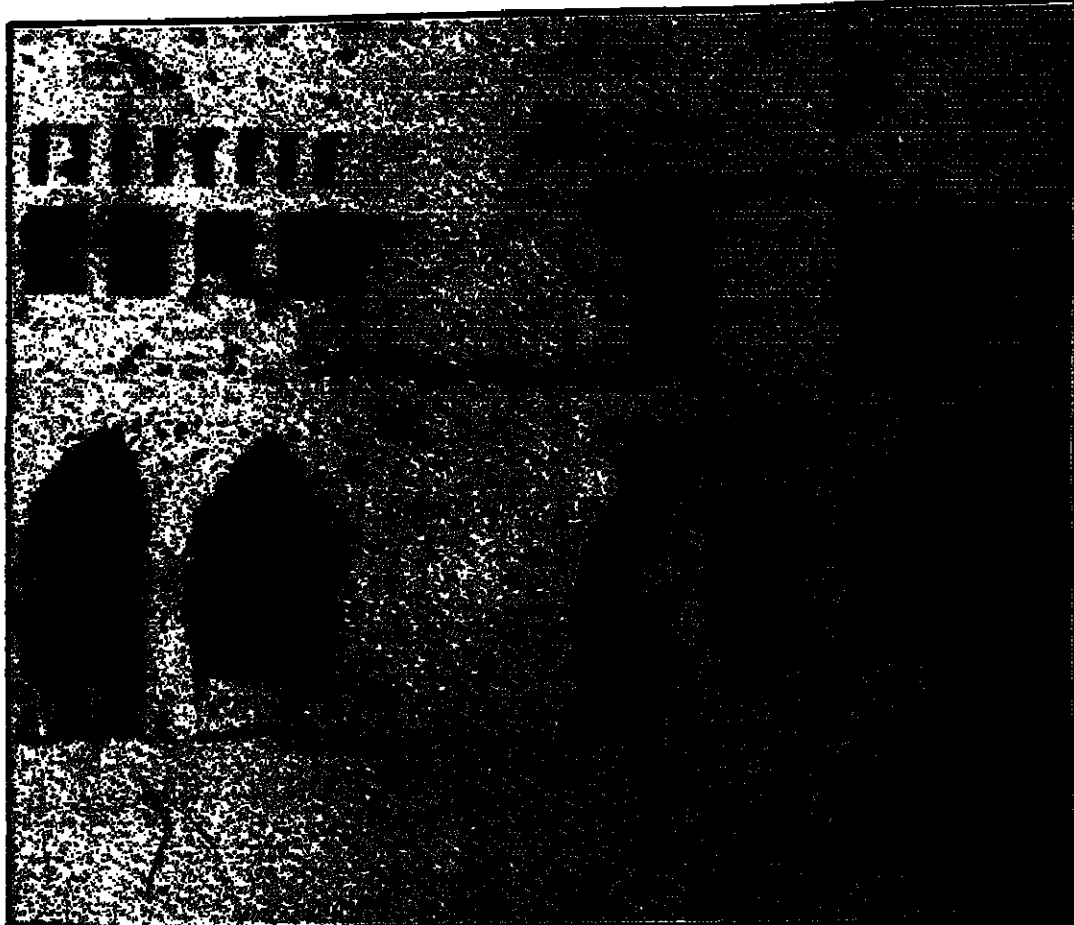
Capt. Afzali was dismissed in April shortly before the Tudeh Party was banned, but at the time no reason was given.

The national news agency IRNA quoted the prosecutor of the armed forces' revolutionary court as saying Capt. Afzali would go on trial by the end of the Iranian month of Mordad (Aug. 22) along with other military members of the outlawed Tudeh Party.

Some 1,500 Tudeh members are officially said to be under arrest. Party leaders were detained in February and in May several of them confessed on television to spying for the Soviet Union.

The Tudeh was subsequently banned and 18 Soviet diplomats were expelled from Iran on charges of interfering in its internal affairs.

Senior judicial officials have said the Tudeh leaders would be tried once investigations into their activities were ended.



IN REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST: A mother and her son carry food provisions past a downtown N'djamena building which shows heavy scars of past fighting between the troops of Chad President Hissene Habre and the rebel forces of former President Goukouni Oueddei. (A.P. wirephoto).

Egyptian foreign minister to visit Baghdad soon

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali will visit Iraq soon for talks on Middle East developments and bilateral relations, the Cairo weekly magazine October reported Saturday.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz visited Cairo earlier this month.

Iraq was among the majority of Arab states that broke relations with Egypt after the signing of the 1979 peace treaty with Israel but Cairo-Baghdad links have tangibly improved as a result of Egyptian support for Iraq in its war with Iran.

Mubarak to visit U.N.

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will address the United Nations General Assembly on Sept. 28, the Cairo

weekly magazine October reported Saturday.

Other Arab leaders expected to speak at the assembly's next session were King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, King Hussein and President Hafez Al-Assad of Syria, the magazine said.

Meanwhile, Egyptian Prime Minister Faud Mohamedin, in Romania for a five-day official visit, had talks Friday on the Middle East situation with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu.

Romania has often acted as an intermediary in the Middle East conflict.

The two leaders called for establishment of an independent Palestinian state and guarantees for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states in the region, Agerpres said.

Food poisoning affects Asian workers in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — More than 350 Asian employees of a Filipino construction company were taken to hospital Friday night suffering from food poisoning. Undersecretary of the Kuwait Health Ministry Ibrahim Jasem Al Modat

said Saturday. Two of the victims, all employees of the Atlantic Gulf Pacific Company, were reported in serious condition and some were expected to be discharged later after medical treatment, he said.

U.S. expectations prove unrealistic

By Jeffrey Antevill
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The visit to Washington this week by two Israeli ministers has shown how far the Reagan administration has fallen short of arranging a broad Middle East peace agreement.

When Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defence Minister Moshe Arens ended their visit on Thursday, U.S. and Israeli officials said it had been a diplomatic success.

But their talks dealt with Lebanon to the near exclusion of the overall peace process and the United States appeared to have retreated from its original goal — a rapid Israeli troop withdrawal from Lebanon.

Israel did agree, under American pressure, to state publicly that its controversial troop redeployment in Lebanon would be the first stage in a total withdrawal.

This was intended to allay fears, especially in Lebanon itself, that a partial pullback, coupled with Syria's refusal to withdraw its troops, would lead to partition.

But the concession had little practical effect since Israel has set no date for a withdrawal.

Mr. Arens said Israel would shortly begin its redeployment to more secure positions, regardless of whether the Lebanese army was able to fill the security vacuum it would leave.

This could produce renewed

fighting among Druze Muslim and Christian factions in the Shouf mountains, where the Israelis have at times tried to keep the combatants apart.

Administration officials, who were recently calling for a rapid pullout of the Israeli troops that invaded Lebanon in June 1982, now appear pleased with Israel's statement that it is willing to withdraw at some unspecified time.

Since this withdrawal is conditional on a Syrian and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) pullout, Israel is not likely to have to make good on its words soon.

Concern over the possibility of a long-term partition of Lebanon between Israel and Syria overshadowed other topics during the ministers' visit.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Just as when Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin paid his last official visit to Washington soon after the Israeli invasion, Lebanon so dominated the latest round of talks that the broad peace process got no more than a passing mention.

A senior U.S. official told reporters that in 15 hours of talks they had discussed how to get the peace process moving, and Washington restated its opposition to Israeli settlements in occupied Arab territory.

He said the administration would not accept the notion that

nothing could be done to revive the search for a settlement between Israel and its Arab neighbours, and to the problem of stateless Palestinians.

Mr. Shamir told reporters Israel was "eager to resume the negotiations in the framework of Camp David (the 1978 accord between Egypt and Israel) and to find as soon as possible a solution of all the problems we are facing."

But neither gave any indication that new ideas had been raised or explored or that Israel had relaxed its adamant opposition to the peace plan Mr. Reagan unveiled last September.

No one, American or Israeli, suggested this week that the Reagan plan for Palestinian self-rule "in association with Jordan" was still a viable option.

Israel, which has kept the spotlight on Lebanon for more than a year now, clearly does not lament its passing.

U.S. officials said Mr. Reagan's new special Middle East envoy, Robert McFarlane, would probably deal almost entirely with getting foreign forces out of Lebanon rather than with the overall peace process during his forthcoming Middle East trip.

They said Mr. McFarlane, who will stop in Syria on his trip, will carry the new Israeli assurances on eventual total withdrawal as well as some ideas on how that might be achieved.

He will also visit Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Alleged Orly attacker retracts confession

PARIS (R) — A 29-year-old Armenian has retracted his confession after he previously admitted planting the bomb that killed seven people and wounded 57 at Paris' Orly Airport two weeks ago, the man's lawyer said Saturday.

The lawyer, Henri Leclerc, said that Varadjan Garbidjan had confessed on July 19, four days after the blast, solely in order to protect the Armenian community and help obtain the release of 51 suspected Armenian activists rounded up after the attack.

He said Mr. Garbidjan had retracted the confession during a meeting Friday with the judge investigating the blast which ripped through the airport's crowded southern terminal when a suitcase exploded at the Turkish airlines check-in desk.

Mr. Leclerc told reporters Mr. Garbidjan acknowledged belonging to the Armenian Secret

Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA), which claimed responsibility for the blast, but had been unable to give a precise description of the site of the bombing.

Mr. Garbidjan, a Syrian-born Armenian, has been charged with murder and attempted murder, destruction of property, violation of the peace, illegal possession of arms and ammunition, making and carrying explosives, conspiracy and forging documents.

A Turk, Ioannes Semerci, is charged with complicity, nine other people face lesser charges, and 10 suspected Armenian activists have been placed under house arrest.

The arrest of Mr. Garbidjan was hailed by the French government as a major breakthrough in its fight against political violence. Friday, Interior Minister Gaston Defferre described police work after the bombing as "the model of a successful operation".

Confession contested

But political commentators have contested certain elements of Mr. Garbidjan's confession.

He told police he had paid an unsuspecting traveller to accept the suitcase containing the bomb as excess luggage, and that the case was intended to blow up aboard a Turkish airlines flight to Istanbul.

But investigators have said the suitcase, containing explosives, three gas bottles, detonators and an electrical firing device, would never have gone unnoticed through airport electronic security checks.

Meanwhile French police have been seeking three more alleged ASALA members suspected of involvement in the Orly attack, including a Turkish-born suspect named as Soner Nayir.

Paris police have stepped up security around potential targets for Armenian guerrillas including Turkish banks, travel agencies and cultural institutions.

Security has also been tightened around the French embassy in Tehran following a threatened rocket attack on the French embassy by a man who said he represented an Armenian guerrilla group.

Armenian groups have claimed responsibility for three bomb attacks on French targets in Tehran in the past week, as well as an attack on the Turkish ambassador's residence in Lisbon in which five guerrillas and two other people died.

Armenian activists want Turkey to acknowledge it massacred 1.5 million Armenians during World War I — a charge Turkey denies — and they seek independence for their traditional homeland.

Britain, Turkey reportedly agree to fight Armenian rebels

LONDON (R) — Britain and Turkey, in the wake of recent Armenian attacks on Turkish targets abroad, have agreed to cooperate more closely against international guerrilla activity, Turkish Foreign Minister Tiler Turkmen has said.

Mr. Turkmen, who is on an official visit to Britain, told a press conference all countries should be more vigilant, exchange in-

formation, condemn political violence unequivocally and take effective measures to protect diplomats.

"We (Britain and Turkey) have decided to increase our cooperation in this field," he said Friday.

Mr. Turkmen, who has had talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, said he

Bomb threats ground 2 French jets

PARIS (R) — Two French domestic airlines made emergency landings Saturday after an anonymous telephone caller claiming to represent an Armenian guerrilla group said bombs had been planted on them, officials at Orly Airport said.

Syria blasts U.S. attitude

DAMASCUS (R) — State-run Damascus Radio said Friday the United States, by accepting Israel's partial withdrawal plan in Lebanon, had condemned an Israeli scheme to annex the south of the country.

In a commentary, the radio said Israel's plan to pull back from the Beirut outskirts to safer positions in southern Lebanon "aims to consolidate the occupation of southern Lebanon in preparation for annexing it at a later stage."

The radio criticised the Reagan administration for agreeing to the partial pullout plan without demanding a timetable for a total withdrawal from Lebanon.

Ms. Bhutto escorted out of hospital

KARACHI (R) — Pakistan's best known political detainee, Benazir Bhutto, left hospital Saturday after an emergency operation, her doctors said.

The doctors said Ms. Benazir, daughter of executed former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, had a slight cough and occasional difficulty in breathing after the operation four days ago for nose and ear troubles. Her blood tests and X-rays had shown general weakness, they said.

Witnesses said more than 50 armed police formed a tight ring around Ms. Benazir as she was taken from hospital to a police car that took her to the family home.

TV & RADIO

WHAT'S GOING ON

FOR THE TRAVELLER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

16:30 Koran

16:35 Cartoons

17:30 Famous People

17:35 Mighty Mouse

18:00 Programme on Animals

18:10 Children's Programme

18:30 Programme on Iraq

19:30 Programme Review

19:30 News in Arabic

20:00 Local Series

21:30 Local Programme

22:00 Arabic Series

23:00 News Summary

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme

19:00 News in French

19:30 News in Hebrew

20:00 News in Arabic

21:00 One in a Million

21:30 Hollywood

22:00 News in English

22:10 Feature Film: "Stage Coach"

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz AM & 99 MHz FM

& party on 95.60 KHz, SW

07:00 Morning Show

07:30 News Bulletin

08:00 News Summary

08:05 Morning Show

08:30 News Summary

12:05 Pop Session

12:30 News Summary

13:05 Catch the Words

14:00 News Bulletin

14:10 Instrumentals

14:30 Science Report

16:00 News Summary

16:05 Instrumentals, Old Favorites

17:00 Listeners' Choice

18:00 News Summary

18:05 Jazz Hour

19:00 News Summary

19:30 Date with a Star

20:00 Evening Show

21:00 News Summary

21:05 News Summary

22:00 Evening Show

23:00 News Summary

23:05 Evening Show

24:00 News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE

630, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newscast 06:30 Diversions

TODAY'S EVENTS

FILM

"Northern Lights" at the American Centre at 8:00 p.m.

EXHIBITION

Paintings by Conny Osborne at Hotel Amra.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267

American Centre 44371

American Centre Library 41520

British Council 36147-8

French Cultural Centre 37009

Soviet Institute 41993

Soviet Cultural Centre 44203

Spanish Cultural Centre 24049

Turkish Cultural Centre 39777

Haya Arts Centre 665195

Hussein Youth City 667181

Y.W.C.A. 41795

Amman Municipal Library 36111

University of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Mesopotamia and Persia (4th to 19th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan (from prehistoric times to the present). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Jordanian artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th century Orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Loubdah. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.

Military Museum: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club: Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 1.30 p.m.

Lions Philadelphia Club: Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1.30 p.m.

Philadelphia Rotary Club: Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.

Royal Club: Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 8.00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club: Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle, Tel. 815261.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Amman, tel. 24590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic): Jabal Loubdah, 37440.

De la Sainte Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Hussein, 66157.

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox): Abadi, 23541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer): Jabal Amman, 41559.

Antonian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331.

Antonian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 75261.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox): Ashrafieh, 71751.

Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisat, 663249.

PRAYER TIMES

03:16 Sunrise

04:40 Sunrise

11:43 Dhulhr

15:24 'Asr

18:34 Maghreb

18:36 'Isha

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by the Air information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (06) 33250, 33070, 33082, 33171, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

06:15 Tripoli, Lebanon (LI)

06:45 Cairo (RU)

06:55 Amman (RU)

07:05 Amman (RU)

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EMERGENCIES

Ambulance 193, 75111

Fire, police 199

Blood bank 75121

Civil Defence rescue 661111

Fire headquarters 22090-3

Police rescue 192, 21111, 3770

Police headquarters 39141

Traffic police 56390-1

Electric Power Co. 36381-2

Municipal waste services 71122

Queen Alia Int. Airport (06) 53333

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre 31381-32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amman 44281-4

Akhd. Maternity, J. Amman 42441

Jabal Amman Maternity 42362

Shmeisat, J. Amman 36140

Pediatric, Shmeisat 66171-4

St. Francis Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Dr. Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667158

Al-Mudhar Hospital 667227-9

The Islamic, Abadi 665292

Al-Ahli, Abadi 664164

Italian, Al-Muhajir 77101-3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 75111

Army, Marka 91611

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Nabil Al Mandil 38356

Dr. Khaled Abu Khamis 72050

Smith pharmacy 77526

Al Quds pharmacy 21270

Grand Arab pharmacy 33171

Jabal Al Taj pharmacy 71030

Rainbow taxi 37249

Kasem taxi 43620

Amman taxi 37249

Karak taxi 66761

Jihad taxi 84264

Nahla taxi 663003

IBRD: Dr. Adnan Al Nasser 2418

Al Hussein pharmacy 3916

ZARQA: Al Hashim pharmacy (—)

GENERAL

Jordan Television 73111

Radio Jordan 74111

Ministry of Tourism 42311

Hotel complaints 666412

Price complaints 661176

Telephone: Jordanian 11

Jordan and Middle East calls 10

Overseas calls 17

Cable or telegram 18

Repair service 11

MARKET PRICES

Upperflower price in fil per kg.

Apple (American) 500/430

Apple (Dorset) 500/430

Apple (Golden) 150/120

Apple (local) 150/120

Apple (Stanton) 150/120

Apples 250/200

Banana 270/220

Banana (Mukarram) 230/200

Betel 240/200

Cabbage 130/100

Carrot 150/100

Cauliflower (white) 180/150

Cherries 750/650

Chick peas (green) 90/70

Corn 150/120

Cucumber (large) 120/100

Cucumber (small) 210/180

Eggplant (large) 90/60

Eggplant (small) 140/100

Falakiya 180/140

Garlic 360/300

Grapefruit 210/190

Grapes 280/240

Grape leaves 360/300

Lemon 250/200

Lemon (yellow) 400/350

Marrow (large) 120/90

Marrow (small) 180/150

Melons 70/50

Melon 90/60

Melon (super) 120/90

Onion (dry) 140/110

Olives 270/220

Oranges 300/250

Pears 450/400

Pump 300/250

Pears 400/350

Pepper (Sweet) 240/200

Pepper (Hot Green) 240/200

Pine (red) 220/150

Potatoes 170/140

Radiata 130/100

Tomatoes 120/90

Housing Corporation to supervise Public Works-run projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing Corporation (HC) has taken over responsibility for supervising the implementation of 11 government-sponsored projects from the Ministry of Public Works, HC Director-General Hamdallah Nabulsi announced here Saturday.

He said that HC staff will supervise work on projects in the Karak, Ma'an and Amman Governorates at first, with more projects coming under the corporation's jurisdiction later on.

Uniform Arab vehicle insurance proposed

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Federation of Arab Societies for the Prevention of Road Accidents has proposed that a unified driving licence be issued to drivers in all Arab states in addition to a unified insurance policy for vehicles, according to Dr. Rawhi Al Sharif who attended a recent federation meeting in Cairo.

He said that the federation accepted Bahrain as a new member and decided to observe March 26

every year as "Arab Traffic Day." Dr. Sharif, along with Mr. Mohammad Abul Al Ragheb, both from the Jordan Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents, attended the federation's meetings and submitted a report on the society's activities. A copy of which was distributed to the Arab delegates.

These activities include seminars, pamphlet and posters aimed at reducing the number of road accidents, Dr. Sharif said.

Under a new HC law, the cabinet can transfer the task of supervising government projects to the Housing Corporation, he said. The 11 projects to be supervised are worth some JD 2.5 million and include the construction of a juvenile rehabilitation centre at Yajouz near Amman; health centre near the Amman Municipality's Fire Brigade headquarters; and a storage warehouse for Al Bashir Hospital at Ashrafieh.

In the Karak Governorate, the HC will supervise work on the construction of a school, refectory at Al Rabbeh Agricultural College, a school hall for Al Hasa, and a model girls school at Tafelh.

In the Ma'an Governorate, the HC will look after work at the Institute for Labour Education, a civil defence centre, the governor's offices at Aqaba, as well as boys secondary school in Ma'an.



The two-week seminar aimed at the development of national organisation throughout the Arab World. Saturday commences at the Arab Organisation of Administrative Sciences in Amman (Petra photo)

Seminar aims to develop efficiency of Arab organisations, says Sayegh

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-week seminar on developing the performance of national Arab organisations opened at the Arab Organisation of Administrative Sciences (AOAS) offices Saturday.

The seminar is designed to acquaint the participants from many Arab states with ways of developing and optimising the run-

ning of such organisations in their own countries, according to the AOAS Director Dr. Nasser Al Sayegh.

He said in an opening speech that improving management techniques in these organisations is a basic element in developing the organisation's operations.

The AOAS, he said, is seeking to establish strong cooperation

between its branches and Arab organisations with the aim of developing the skills of their employees, improving the quality of their information and exchanging experience with them.

Among lecturers at the seminar are specialists from the United States and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Jordan to get \$30m loan from World Bank

WASHINGTON (Petra) — The Jordanian government and the World Bank signed an agreement here Thursday according to which the bank will give Jordan a \$30 million loan to be used in developing transport and telecommunications in the city of

Amman. Jordanian Ambassador in Washington Ibrahim Izzulddin signed the agreement for Jordan and the bank's vice-president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa signed the agreement for the bank.

Jerash Festival bus arrangements made

AMMAN (J.T.) — Visitors to the Jerash Festival, which is due to open on Aug. 12, can make the return trip by bus at the cost of JD 12.

The rate was fixed here at a meeting grouping representatives of the Jerash Festival Committee and the Public Transport Corporation (PTC).

A statement after the meeting said that visitors to Jerash can board PTC buses at two specially assigned pickup points: Near the Martyrs' Monument west of Amman; and at Marka, near the military court by the Airport Circle east of Amman.

The Jerash Festival will last until Aug. 20.

Drivers unhurt in wreck

AMMAN (J.T.) — The drivers of two cars escaped unhurt in a ter-

rrible road accident which occurred in Amman Friday afternoon.

One of the two cars, a BMW driven by Talal Yusef, was heading along the main road linking Ras Al Ain with Jabal Amman when it was hit by another car, a Mercedes, driven by Fuad Qadadeh who was heading towards Ras Al Ain from Wadi Abdoun.

The Mercedes failed to stop as it reached the road junction near the Jordanian Cigarette Company. The two cars collided and sustained heavy damage.

PASSPORT LOST

Bangladesh Passport No. B 538347 of Mohammed Abul Kalam has been lost. If found please contact

Tel: 37349

Sahab estate directors lower factory space rent

AMMAN (J.T.) — The board of directors of the Sahab Industrial Estate (SIE) plans to reduce the annual rent on its buildings with the hope of encouraging factory owners to establish industries within the estate, according to a report in Al Ra'i newspaper Saturday.

It said that work on the first phase of the SIE, around 15 kilometres south of Amman, is expected to be completed in one month.

The first phase entails the construction of service buildings and office space, infrastructure and a number of factory buildings on an 850 dunums site within the SIE premises, according to the director-general of the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) Dr. Faysal Suheimat.

According to Dr. Suheimat, the JIEC had previously fixed the annual rent for factories between JD 10 and JD 12 per square metre but the JIEC board will discuss a reduction of this rent and will make recommendations to the Prime Ministry in the near future.

The paper quoted him as saying that the industrial projects to be set up in the SIE will enjoy an

income and social services tax exemption for two years from the date of operation.

"When a factory owner rents a building for his project within the SIE, he is guaranteed all public services like water and electricity, and the facilities like roads and technical and administrative services," Dr. Suheimat said.

Furthermore, he said, the JIEC is building a permanent 2,000-metre exhibition area to display commodities produced by SIE factories.

The JIEC has also built 258 housing units for the SIE workers and intends to increase the number to 1,250 housing units so as to enable workers to live near their work, Dr. Suheimat said.

In addition, he said, the JIEC, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, is now constructing a vocational training centre on a



Dr. Faysal Suheimat

nine-thousand metre plot to help train youths in areas like building construction, welding, electrical work and others with the purpose of providing factories with much needed skilled technicians. "The project is being provided with telecommunications services like telephone and telefax facilities, and the Ministry of Public Works is building a network of roads that is designed to connect the SIE with the main roads around Amman," Dr. Suheimat added.

Railway offers reduced service

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman-Damascus railroad will stop operating as of Sunday, and railroad traffic between the two countries will be restricted to two trains a week, from Amman to Dar'a and back on Mondays and Fridays. The time of departure from Amman will remain the

same as before at 8.00 a.m.

The change has been necessitated by the decision of the Syrian authorities to stop operating all trains between the Dar'a and Damascus stations in view of the construction work currently underway to link the Homs-

Damascus-Al Arid railroad with the Hejaz railroad at Al Qadam station. The construction work will take four months.

The decision was conveyed to the Jordanian Hejaz Railroad Authority by the Syrian Hejaz Railroad Authority.

Filipino show comes to Amman

By Salameh B. Nehmat
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A 20-member Filipino cultural group Saturday presented a two-day show at the Palace of Culture in Amman.

The group, a selection of the best entertainers in Philippines, started their show Friday with a variety of comedy singing and folk dancing.

The show, which is the first of its kind in Jordan, was sponsored by the Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Welfare Fund for Overseas Workers in the Philippines. Sponsoring the show from the Jordanian side is the Ministries of Youth and Culture, Tourism and Antiquities, the Department of Arts and Culture and the Hussein Sport City.

Hundreds of Filipino residents in Jordan attended the show as well as Jordanians and other foreigners in Amman.

Mr. Cesar Pastores, the Filipino ambassador in Jordan, said in an interview with the Jordan Times that the main purpose of this social cultural show is to improve Filipino-Jordanian relations and to entertain the Filipino workers

in Jordan, as well as to introduce the Jordanian community to the art and culture of the Philippines. There are about 3,000 Filipino workers in Jordan, Mr. Pastores said.

Mr. Arturo Cruz, deputy administrator of the welfare fund for overseas workers in the Philippines, said one of the problems faced by Filipinos working overseas, is coping with nostalgia. The Filipino overseas worker finds himself separated, though temporarily, from family members, friends and familiar ways back home.

These ties, Mr. Cruz said, which sustain the worker in time of personal need, are supplanted by an alien environment—different people with different customs, traditions and norms of conduct. At this stage we have decided to initiate this social-cultural project to help ease the psychological and emotional stress the overseas workers are facing.

The show is led by Bert "Tawa" Marcelo who was made the 1980 entertainer of the year, and who later became the first comedian in

the Philippines. Diomedes Maturan, the singer who is considered the Perry Como of the Philippines and is described as a favourite of both the old and the young.

Gloria Manila, another singer who uses her voice to full advantage in delivering her varied repertoire which includes modern jazz and Filipino pop tunes. Also the versatile and gifted Lirio Vital with her right combination of wit and intelligence started at the show and dazzled the audience with her songs.

Fred Panopio, another entertainer with the group, added spice to the show with the Gerry and Mandy duo singing plus Yoyoy Villame, who makes people laugh at the first line of his every song.

The event, which was put on Friday and Saturday evenings at the Palace of Culture in Amman is a part of a wider tour which includes Dubai, Qatar, Kuwait, and Bahrain. The Middle East was chosen for the initial tour because of the large number of Filipinos working in the area.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Asfour, 'Obeidi confer

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour conferred in his office Saturday with Dr. Mahdi Al 'Obeidi, secretary-general of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU). They discussed ways of bolstering cooperation between CAEU and Jordan.

AMF capital increased

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has decided to increase its capital in the Arab Monetary Fund by JD 7 million from JD 4 million to JD 11 million, according to a report in Saturday's Al Ra'i newspaper. It said that a decision in this respect had been taken by the cabinet.

Iraq egg agreement signed

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is to supply Iraq with 40 million eggs between now and the end of 1983, according to an agreement signed between the two sides in the past few days. A team from the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) visited Iraq and concluded the agreement, according to JCO acting Director Musa Arafah, who led the team to Iraq. The team returned to Amman Saturday.

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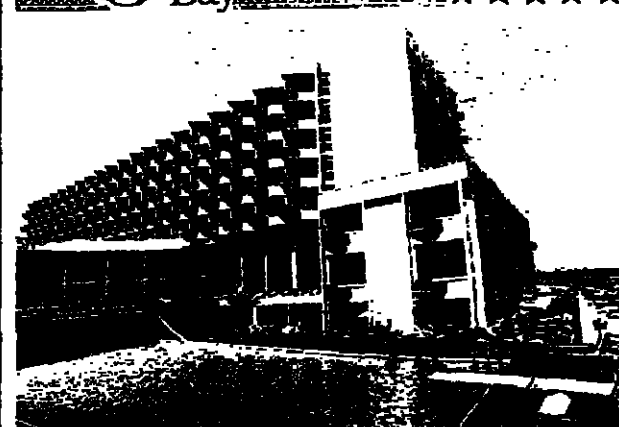
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VIEW FROM AMERICA

Self-interested U.S. serves Arabs better

SAN FRANCISCO — One of the curious things about the American economy is the fact that the media are talking about recovery within the U.S. while the dollar remains very strong on international currency markets. Stranger still is that interest rates remain high. When the dollar is strong and interest rates are high, it usually means the U.S. central bank (Federal Reserve Board) is trying to cool down an overheated economy. That was the case in 1969-70 when Mr. Nixon tried to restrain an inflation generated by the Vietnam war. And when he wanted to get the economy going again through "reflation," he devalued the dollar and got interest rates down. The present condition is a very strange one and has people throughout the world very concerned. The reasons are simple.

If the dollar remains strong and interest rates stay high, it means investors will invest their money in more money rather than in production. Why

risk money in producing something for a five per cent profit if money markets offer 10 per cent or more? And, especially, why work hard for short-term gains if one can make cheap and easy money by buying long-term government bonds which give one dazzlingly high rates of return, say 10 per cent and more?

Thus the American financial system acts as a gigantic vacuum cleaner sucking in money from all over the world. That means such money is not available as capital to go into production. So it is not surprising that even as the U.S. economy goes into recovery, economies in other countries remain caught in recession. This is particularly true in Western Europe.

But why has the domestic American economy recovered? Why is the same process of money chasing money not going on in the U.S.? It used to, until the beginning of this year. But then something changed. The U.S. government

began to practice some very clever policies of bringing some interest rates down but acting so as to keep others up. So interest rates for building a house or buying a car have come down within the U.S. Personal income, despite unemployment, has remained high in the U.S. So that means people do have money. They did not buy houses and cars in 1981 and 1982 because interest rates were high. Now they buy, not just because interest rates are lower, but because they fear inflation could reappear and interest rates could go up again. This is also true of furniture. These are big items in the economy. So when producers start producing more houses, cars, furniture, this has a big stimulative effect on the domestic economy. But it means much less for foreign economies. We import no houses and little furniture. We do import many cars, but most Americans still buy American cars. So what our government has done is to carry out policies

that absolutely benefit the U.S. first. We are trying to stimulate the U.S. economy, but at the same time we want to suck in all the dollars we can from abroad. One reason is to strengthen the dollar, which is the only real global currency. But another reason is that our mighty banks need vast amounts of money to keep lending to the many countries that need them. And it is not just development projects that need the money, but impoverished governments, already deep in debt, that must borrow more and more just to stay afloat. Our neighbour Mexico is a prime example.

Many people in other countries do not yet see the fundamental change that has come over the American government in the last years. The U.S. is no longer the grand and powerful "Uncle Sam" of the post-war years when we were ready to "help" the entire world. And we could help because we were so rich and wise and capable. Now that has changed.

The U.S. feels poorer and less capable, and the Reagan administration feels that the U.S. must act first in its own interests. In other words, we must do what other countries have been doing all the time. In the 19th century Western world, there was a word for this: "Enlightened self-interest". And, in practice, the "enlightened" was a myth. What counted was self-interest.

It is this new fundamental policy of self-interest that people in other countries must understand about the U.S. Our government is going to try to first get the U.S. economy moving again, and first it will fight with all its might on international money markets to get all it can. That way, so the Reagan people argue, the U.S. has a chance of once again becoming rich and powerful.

The angriest at this policy are the French and the Germans, but they at least understand what is happening. So do the Japanese. The Israelis

understand but are very worried because their power within the U.S. has depended so much on the U.S. being willing to support Israel against U.S. national interest. The Arab World should not be so worried because a U.S. acting in its own interests, however clumsily, is still better for them than a U.S. acting from high and lofty ideals, a situation that has always done damage to Arab peoples and nations.

My own sense, based on a fairly good knowledge of the Nixon administration, is that this new policy on the part of the U.S. government may in the end have quite good results, both economically and politically. I am not admirer of the Reagan administration, yet judging from the records of two previous Republican Presidents (Eisenhower and Nixon), the chances are that for all the ignorant talk coming from Washington, the actions may, in the end, have much better long-term consequences.

They gain, we pay

WHEN U.S. and Israeli officials say that the Washington visit of Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli foreign minister, and Moshe Arens, the defence minister, had been a diplomatic success, there is no reason to disbelieve them. Israel has virtually got everything it wanted from the talks, while Washington is most probably pleased that Israel is happy.

Shamir and Arens went to the U.S. to explain to President Reagan that their government's decision to redeploy in Lebanon was final, and they got Washington to accept it. Never mind that the two ministers, or at least Shamir, did agree to state publicly that Israeli redeployment in Lebanon would be the first stage in a total withdrawal, because he made such a statement before he was even called to Washington. The concession, if it has any meaning at all however, has little practical effect since any further Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory would still be contingent on a parallel Syrian pullback from the Bekaa Valley and the north of Lebanon.

Shamir and Arens also seem to have convinced the Reagan administration that Damascus would not agree to withdraw its troops even if the best of American carrots were dangled in front of its nose. In that respect, Bud McFarlane, the new U.S. envoy to the region, should be coming to Damascus with withdrawal timetables from Lebanon, rather than with offers on the Golan Heights, according to each and every report on his Middle East tour of this week.

Assured of more economic and technical aid from the Americans following their visit, the two Israeli ministers should have one more cause to be further pleased with their U.S. trip. Neither the president nor his assistants nor anyone, Israeli or American, suggested to them during their stay in Washington that the Reagan plan for Middle East peace was still a viable option. And Shamir and Arens must have been indeed happy to see that the Reagan administration has finally given up hope of arranging a broad Middle East peace agreement.

For Israel then, the latest round of talks with the U.S. had been a ringing success.

All no doubt at the expense of the Arabs.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Building on mere words

BEFORE THE U.N. Security Council now is a draft resolution submitted by the Arab group condemning Israel's repressive policies in the occupied Arab territories. Jordan's U.N. Ambassador Abdullah Salah said that the events in Hebron and Israel's continued terrorist actions are aimed at the eviction of the Arabs from their land, and that all this is being done under the eyes of the world. We believe that a unified Arab political stance is now required to explain to the world the truth about the events in Hebron and to expose Israel's arbitrary measures. We do not want to see the Security Council used as a mere forum through which Arab delegates deliver fervent speeches, nor do we want to see the U.S. using its veto to stymie the Arab resolution condemning Israel's policies. The American veto constitutes a very strong barrier against all Arab attempts to gain a global condemnation of Israel's policies, and forms a sort of failsafe political security for the Zionist state exactly in the same way as the American weapons and financial assistance constitute a strong barrier which protects Israel militarily and economically. Even if the U.S. does not resort to the veto and if Israel is condemned for its policies, the resolution will not mean anything unless the Arabs back it up with a unified political and military force directed at regaining their rights.

Al Dustour: U.S. capitulates again

ISRAELI FOREIGN Minister Yitzhak Shamir Friday returned from a visit to the United States with American approval of Israel's redeployment plan in Lebanon. It seems that Israel's determination to carry out its plan forced the American administration to back track on its promises with regard to the issue. This is typical of numerous American actions in the past whenever the pressure is put on Washington by the Zionist lobby or by Israel's rulers. The Reagan administration, through its negotiations with Shamir and Defence Minister Moshe Arens, and in talks with the Lebanese president had pretended that it is adhering firmly to its declared position of opposing Israel's plan for a re-deployment in Lebanon, and is insisting on a total withdrawal. But the Israelis have been able to force Mr. Reagan to renege on his promises and change his government's views.

The Israelis did better than even this by extracting from the Reagan administration promises for more military and financial assistance. These underhand American political dealings ought to prompt the Arabs to re-examine their position and re-assess their dependence on the United States and its initiatives for settling the crisis in Lebanon. They should realise that America lacks credibility and its policy leaves only frustration and failure in its trail.

Sawt Al Shaab: Unity missing ingredient

THE ARABS have reached their lowest ebb, and have declined to a shameful level of disunity, weakness and despair. That is why they impotently resort to the forum of the United Nations and continuously seek the help of big or 'friendly' powers to save them from troubles caused by themselves or by the Zionist enemy. Other nations only look on at their Arabs with pity and they sometimes issue statements of condemnation or support (as the case might be) but without raising a finger to help their Arab 'friends'. We are not helping ourselves either on the contrary we are intent on perpetuating our internal differences, and encouraging warring factions in Lebanon and other parts of the Arab World.

We are continually being dismembered as we are bound with fear, frustration and apathy towards the events in the Middle East which threaten our own future and destiny. The superpowers wait for the prey to fall, so they can share it between them and divide the spoils. The big powers look down on us from an angle which only serves their own purposes and interests. They are not really interested in our progress and our destiny. The Security Council, which we are seeking for help, is dominated by America's veto and faced by a total Zionist disregard and disrespect for its resolutions. We only lack one thing: Unity of action and political strategy. If we have these, we can unify our ranks and point all our guns towards our common enemy.

Kissinger strikes again

IT MIGHT have been arms control and should have been the Middle East. Instead it is the palpable dread of disaster in Central America that has impelled the Reagan administration to seek the help of Henry Kissinger.

If the former secretary of state is wanted to supply a sense of global perspective to two years of panic military responses, a lot of Reagan rhetoric and CIA plotting are going to have to be artfully buried. If, however, he is wanted mainly to polish up a failing policy, he will again provide only the verbal gloss for a destructive foreign venture.

It's long, long way from July to December, when Mr. Kissinger's commission is to give its report. To make the commission's deliberations meaningful, Mr. Reagan needs to put on hold any interventionist designs against Nicaragua or Cuba and any military plans that may involve more U.S. forces in El Salvador.

Mr. Kissinger cannot sell what Mr. Reagan has so plainly failed to sell. He can contribute only by redesigning the policies that have produced the president's desperation.

It is not just some communications failure that explains the lack of public support for Mr. Reagan's approaches to Central America. Polls show that most Americans do not even know whether he is backing the government in El Salvador or the insurgents in Nicaragua or vice versa. But

most also do not share the president's sense of peril, and the best-informed tend to be the most sceptical.

How does a leftist dictatorship in Nicaragua threaten the United States — and how much? Why, if that regime is not marked by Washington for overthrow, can it not be easily insulated from El Salvador's civil war? Why is "our" side in El Salvador incapable of the most elementary respect for human rights that would broaden its appeal and remove its reputation for corruption? Why, in any case, is this fixation with Central America diverting attention and resources from even more pressing crises in the Western Hemisphere, like the austerity now jeopardising a democratic transition in Brazil? To those doubts and fears the administration has responded mainly with slogans and disingenuous mumbles.

An extraordinary commission of citizens is at best a poor way of giving a reasoned answer. What is more, the failure to appoint to it some notable doubters, like Senators Mathias or Moynihan, can only diminish its influence.

Still, Mr. Kissinger's diplomatic gifts are as outsize as his faults. And he understands the piranha ways of bureaucracy, perhaps too well. He needs no tutoring on his own vulnerability as a devious meddler against an elected leftist regime in Chile and as a coddler of Latin dictators. One must assume

that he wants no suicide mission into history.

The prize in Central America is to locate the space for compromise before much more that is precious is lost. Blueprints for a Marshall Plan of aid will lead nowhere if the present martial plans are not put aside. Even the authors of those proposals smell their failure as they seek a 40-per cent increase for covert and overt military operations in Central America. Such an increase, an administration report concedes, "may be perceived as incremental escalation to stave off defeat for the time being, without any clear strategy for success — an awkward parallel with Vietnam."

The parallel is sinister as well as awkward. As Mr. Kissinger's appointment was announced, so were war games in the Caribbean, with the aim of showing that U.S. naval ships can blockade Nicaragua. When Senator Jackson proposed the idea of a commission on Central America, he pleaded for creativity to end a policy paralysis — not for a prestigious endorsement of incremental interventionism.

Given time and room to manoeuvre, Mr. Kissinger might still vindicate the arts of diplomacy. If that is not what the president wants, this commission is pointless and no place for honorable service.

—The New York Times



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U.S.-Soviet Strategic Talks adjourn

By Sidney Weiland
Reuter

LONDON — U.S.-Soviet Strategic Missile Talks are adjourning after mutual concessions that have raised slight hopes in an otherwise gloomy arms control scenario.

Parallel negotiations on European-based nuclear missiles broke for a summer recess two weeks ago, with both sides seemingly headed towards more rather than fewer weapons.

While U.S. officials label the Soviet stand in the Euro-missile talks "rigid and uncompromising", they acknowledge "positive moves" by Moscow in the strategic negotiations.

Although separate, both sets of talks are in Geneva and follow the same format, two months of hard bargaining, then a two-month break for reflection. The strategic talks, just to their second year, are due to adjourn next Tuesday.

The Reagan administration says a draft treaty it tabled early in July demonstrated flexibility on key issues, while Soviet concessions were limited to "non-central areas."

Chief U.S. negotiator Edward Rowny, in a round of visits to NATO capitals, has told allied governments a strategic arms accord may be "theoretically possible" in about 12 months. This would be before U.S. presidential elections in November 1984.

But European diplomats said Mr. Rowny told them a major political push would probably be needed first, either at a U.S.-Soviet summit or in a similar high-level meeting.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko are expected to meet in Madrid in early September. But this may be too soon for a definitive new move.

NATO alliance officials believe Moscow will hold back in the strategic talks, which resume in October, until there is some progress in the 20-month-long negotiations on European missiles.

Many say this in turn is doubtful until the first of up to 572 U.S. cruise and Pershing-2 missiles are deployed in Europe under a NATO modernisation programme set to begin next December.

Other officials predict a new Soviet move in the Euro-missile talks by autumn in a final attempt to block U.S. deployments.

The autumn Euro-round, starting on Sept. 6, will be the last before 41 U.S. missiles are sited in Britain, West Germany and Italy, in the NATO programme's initial phase.

The West says the plan can be halted only if the Soviet Union agrees to dismantle all its European-based SS-20 missiles.

Any agreement short of this, such as an "interim solution" offered by President Reagan in March, proposing cuts to equal levels, would mean at least some cruises, Pershings and SS-20s.

The U.S. proposal envisages a limit anywhere between 50 and 450 medium-range, land-based missiles on each side in Europe.

The Soviet Union says it will retaliate by putting new missiles into Eastern Europe if U.S. deployments go ahead.

Moscow has offered to scale down SS-20s in Europe to 162, to match British and French nuclear weapons which the West says are outside the scope of the Geneva negotiations.

In the strategic field, Mr. Reagan has altered U.S. proposals radically in an attempt to reduce warheads and to move both sides towards less menacing single-headed missiles.

According to Western sources, he has dropped demands for a ceiling of 850 land- and sea-based missiles on each side and will now accept about 1,200, closer to the 1,800 overall limit proposed by the Soviet Union, which also includes bombers.

He is ready to compromise on his target of 2,500 land-based warheads if total destructive power is significantly reduced.

U.S. proposals aim to limit

Moscow's big multiple-warhead SS-17, SS-18 and SS-19 missiles, all capable of taking out America's land-based missiles in a first-strike attack.

Mr. Reagan has compromised also by agreeing to discuss bombers and slow-flying cruise missiles in a single strategic package instead of leaving these categories until a second phase.

The Soviet Union has abandoned efforts to limit the U.S. to four to six new submarines, and now calls for limits on cruises with a range of more than 600 kilometres instead of demanding an outright ban on this type, Western sources say.

Moscow has also revised its proposals to provide for multiple-warhead sub-limits: 680 inter-continental land-based missiles, 400 submarine-launched missiles, and 120 bombers.

But Western officials say this would hit hardest at the U.S. force of about 400 strategic bombers while allowing Moscow to keep most of nearly 800 heavier land-

based missiles.

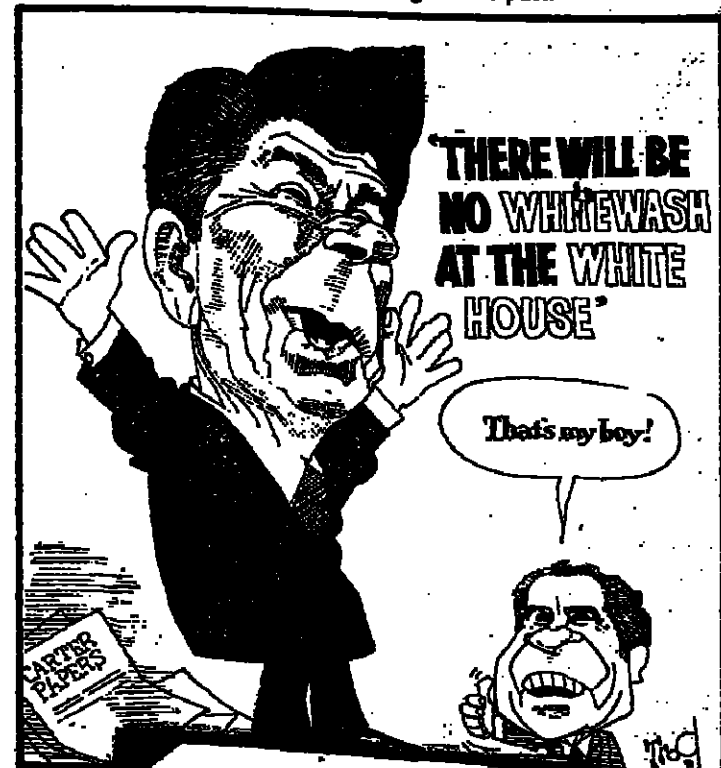
Despite continuing wide differences, U.S. negotiators report that Moscow is negotiating seriously on strategic arms — a judgment they withhold when discussing what has happened so far in the Euro-missile talks.

Since Mr. Reagan made new proposals in both sets of negotiations this year, Mr. Rowny and Euro-missile Negotiator Paul Nitze say they have more latitude to explore compromises.

Mr. Rowny has told NATO officials he is under orders from Mr. Reagan to examine all Soviet proposals carefully.

The U.S. is now doubtful of reaching a separate accord with the Soviet Union on confidence-building measures in advance of a full strategic arms treaty, Western sources say.

Soviet negotiators oppose a separate agreement and are holding out for advance notification of nuclear testing and for weapons "exclusion zones" to be put into a single arms pact.



Unexpected austerity measures disappoint Zimbabwe socialists

By Rodney Pinder
Reuter

HARARE — Zimbabwe's socialist government has been forced by world recession and two years of severe drought to adopt orthodox conservative economic policies which could endanger its political power base.

Presenting the country's fourth budget since independence to parliament, Finance Minister Bernard Chidzero admitted that the economy had been blown off course and that harsh austerity measures were required.

The economy grew at only two per cent in real terms last year compared with a planned target of eight per cent. Painting a grim picture of the immediate outlook, Mr. Chidzero forecast little, if any, expansion in the budget year 1983-84.

He conceded that the government's cherished three-year development plan, unveiled amidst fanfare last year as the foundation for a truly socialist society, had been thrown into disarray.

Two Zimbabwean banks have forecast that real gross national product will fall this year for the first time since 1978, necessitating a reshaping of government economic strategy.

Not only is the economy failing to meet its ambitious eight per cent annual average growth target, but the pattern of growth is the opposite to that intended.

The development plan projected growth of 8.4 per cent a year between 1982 and 1985 as against 6.5 per cent for services. But in 1982 material output — in manufacturing, agriculture, mining, construction, distribution and transport — fell by one per cent

while spending on non-productive education, health and public administration soared by more than 14 per cent.

The pattern is reflected in the \$2.8 billion budget itself with more than half of recurrent spending scheduled to take place in education, defence, health and home affairs, including the police. Capital spending in the public sector, seen as essential for growth, is being cut by 17 per cent to \$781 million.

Critics of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's government accuse it of losing control on public spending, especially on social services, administration and defence. The next 12 months will be crucial for Mr. Mugabe and his finance minister. Political analysts say their reputations are on the line, not least amongst the hard-core leftists of their own ZANU-PF party.

If the tough, conservative budget fails to bring economic dividends in the coming year there will be no shortage of critics calling for strict adherence to Marxist-socialist principles studied in the bush when ZANU was a guerrilla force fighting white "capitalist" rule.

Both men need a rapid turnaround in Zimbabwe's economic misfortunes so that Mr. Chidzero can present a kinder budget in 1984 in the run-up to the first post-independence general election which must take place by February 1985.

Mr. Mugabe has pledged to go to the polls on the platform of making Zimbabwe a one-party ZANU-PF state.

Mr. Chidzero said Zimbabwe was a nation on trial. The government is clearly in the dock with it.

More American sympathy towards Arabs

By William C. Adams

Never before has any significant share of the public openly aligned themselves with the Arabs against Israel. Now, for the first time, three out of ten Americans say they sympathise more with the Arab nation than with Israel.

The change did not come overnight. Starting in 1977 and 1978, large numbers began to see Menachem Begin as intransigent and arrogant, to object to Begin's policies toward the West Bank, to develop some concern for the status of the Palestinians, and to listen to the arguments of moderate Arab leaders — most crucially, to Anwar Sadat.

By 1981 public attitudes had undergone some powerful revisions. The Middle East was no longer seen as David vs. Goliath, U.S. friend vs. U.S. enemies, good vs. evil. David was by then equipped with considerably more than a slingshot; a few key Arab states had become widely known as fairly pro-American; and the automatic presumption of Israeli virtue had vanished.

However, these and other changes had not diminished the fundamental, long-standing American loyalty to the state of Israel. Specific disappointments with Begin were divorced from the public's continuing commitment to Israel, as if Begin were temporary, while Israel's struggle against extremists bent on its annihilation was long-term and real. Although Begin suffered, in American eyes, from comparisons to Golda Meir or Anwar Sadat, he profited greatly from contrasts with Yasser Arafat or Muammar Qadhafi.

Just prior to the Israeli drive into southern Lebanon, I wrote that there was "no guarantee that objections to the Begin government will not eventually erode the broad support for Israel" and that there was an "unappreciated potential for volatility" in U.S. public opinion toward Israel and the Arabs. Four months later, distaste for Begin's government finally shattered the barrier that had served to keep the image of the state of Israel so highly positive and distinct from that of the prime minister and his regime.

This change should not be exaggerated. Americans have not embraced Yasser Arafat and dismissed Israel; there remains a potent emotional attraction to Israel. But something significant has happened. For five years, positive evaluations of Israel were immune to vicissitudes in negative reactions to Begin's policies. In August and September of 1982, however, one large share of the public began to hold Israel accountable for Begin, a new outlook that may

portend even greater changes in the future.

June 6 to Aug. 12

Preliminary American reactions to the limited operation in southern Lebanon were divided (40 per cent favoured, 35 per cent opposed). — Gallup, June 11-14. Later evaluations were much more censorious. By July, less than one-fourth said they approved the invasion, while one-half said they opposed it (Los Angeles Times, July 5-8; Gallup, July 23-26).

One further indication of the strength of the disapproval is shown by a Harris question which put the ultimate outcome in the best possible light.

If the conflict ends with military powers — Israel, Syrian and PLO — finally getting out of Lebanon, do you think the Israeli move into Lebanon was justified or not? Because Americans so often judge policies (like Reaganomics) by their accomplishments, rather than by their techniques or theory, and because Americans overwhelmingly wanted to see the Lebanese "rule themselves" (Harris, July 18-22), one would expect this formulation to elicit strong contingent support for the "Israeli move". (Harris even avoided the tougher word "invasion").

Despite this highly favourable wording, in early July only 44 per cent would give approval, while 36 per cent still insisted the action was unjustified, and 20 per cent were not sure. By the first week in August, there was no longer a statistically significant plurality in Israel's corner, even with the happy-ending scenario; 43 per cent approved and 42 per cent had come to disapprove.

One of the key reasons for the reluctance to sanction the invasion seemed to be the belief that civilian casualties were out of proportion to the military threat to Israel. A steadily increasing share of the public agreed with the loaded assertion that "Israel was wrong to go to war and kill thousands of Lebanese civilians". Harris polls found that in the third week of June, 49 per cent agreed; in the second week of July, 52 per cent agreed; and by the first week in August, 63 per cent agreed and only 29 per cent disagreed.

More Americans were prepared to characterise the Israeli action as "aggressive" (42 per cent) than "defensive" (27 per cent) as early as the first week in July. By that time, people were skeptical about whether an expanded military effort would really solve anything. Only 17 per cent believed that "the serious losses suffered by the Palestinian forces will weaken a troublesome element in the area

and make (peace) agreements easier," and 48 per cent were afraid that peace talks would become more difficult, according to Harris data.

At the same time, there was no massive repudiation of Israel's action, and there was clearly support (57 per cent pro in both June and July Harris polls) for the initial Israeli aim of stopping PLO bases from "regularly shelling Israel". There was admiration for the "military skill Israel showed" (57 per cent).

A large segment of the U.S. public thought entry into Vietnam was a mistake, but, once involved, nevertheless preferred to escalate the effort in order to win. Likewise, it appears that many of those who said Israel should not have embarked on its northward drive also wanted to see the Israelis victorious. For example, only 24 per cent agreed that "the Israeli army should have attacked Lebanon to begin with". However, 46 per cent wanted Israel to "finish the job of pushing the PLO out of Lebanon," and 46 per cent wanted to see Israel stay on "until the Syrians agree to leave" Lebanon (Los Angeles Times, July 4-8).

Until the end of July and the beginning of August, reactions generally followed previous patterns in which the overall reputation of the nation of Israel escaped unscathed from skepticism toward particular Begin policies, even among the minority of Americans who most strongly objected to Begin's move. There was, in fact, an initial increase in the proportion of Americans saying they favoured Israel over the Arab nations. And, despite some disapproval of the invasion, Begin's own rating did not immediately suffer.

Americans were already divided in their attitudes toward Menachem Begin, and they remained so throughout most of the summer. Begin had never achieved the sort of personal popularity and rapport with Americans that was enjoyed by previous Israeli prime ministers. But neither was there an anti-Begin consensus.

One survey which provoked interest was a Los Angeles Times poll suggesting Begin's popularity rose sharply after the invasion. In January of 1982, the public was evenly divided into those with opinions favourable to Begin (33 per cent), unfavourable to Begin (34 per cent), and undecided or uninformed about him (33 per cent). By early July, those with favourable opinions constituted a full 50 per cent of the sample, with 29 per cent viewing Begin negatively.

Actually, much of the apparent boost for Begin was probably an

artifact of question order. The second poll inserted Yasser Arafat for evaluation immediately before Begin, with Begin benefiting immensely from the juxtaposition. But, if the shift was not entirely a fluke, it suggests that Begin's comparatively low-key style during the early summer may have paid off and that, as with Margaret Thatcher, there is some appeal to a victorious allied leader. In any event, Begin's ratings reaffirm that there was no revolution in American attitudes during Israel's march to the outskirts of Beirut.

Some analysts predicted that Yasser Arafat's appearances before network cameras would influence opinions during June and July. However, both Arafat and the PLO retained their highly negative images. Only 15 per cent had a favourable impression of Arafat and only 9 per cent had a favourable view of the PLO as of the first week in July (Los Angeles Times).

ABC News/Washington Post poll in late September found 59 per cent agreeing that the United States "should stop supplying Israel with military arms," while only 35 per cent disagreed. In the Gallup poll at that time, 50 per cent favoured suspending or reducing aid "in order to force a pullout of Israeli forces from Lebanon", 38 per cent opposed those sanctions. Also, for the first time in years, 30 per cent of American public has taken a more favourable attitude towards Arabs, the poll showed.

Yet, just as Americans continued to distinguish Begin from Israel, they continued to distinguish the PLO from the Palestinian people. A solid majority (60 per cent) clung to the idea that the PLO did not represent the Palestinian people (NBC/AP, Aug. 17), so that the negative image of the PLO did not extend to Palestinian civilians.

On balance, news during June and July seems to have intensified the complex and mixed public impressions of the Middle East which had evolved over the preceding five years. In this instance, America's ally took steps that were interpreted as courageous, skillful, and having some initial justification but that were simultaneously seen as overly aggressive and insensitive to civilian casualties — fighting against what was seen as a repugnant organisation which has terrorised in the name of poor refugees who do deserve an improved status.

Because the enemy was the PLO, misgivings about Israel were held in check. Then came (1) the continued bombings of Beirut, (2) the scoring of Reagan's peace plan, and (3) the massacre at

Sabra and Shatila.

Aug. 12 to Sept. 24

Starting about mid-August, a succession of surveys revealed that objections had spread past specific Begin policies and had begun, for the first time, to hit opinions of Israel itself. Heavy media coverage of the Israeli bombardment of Beirut and the agony it inflicted also exploded a bomb on the image of Israel. Six out of ten Americans concluded Israel "used more force than was necessary" against the PLO in Beirut (ABC/Washington Post, Aug. 17).

By the middle of August, Gallup discovered the largest proportion giving an unfavourable opinion of Israel in almost twenty years of ratings — 36 per cent (up from 19 per cent in 1981). Those voicing favourable views fell from 75 to 56 per cent between 1981 and 1982. Previously, whatever

the extent of dissatisfaction with particular Begin policies, this measure had not declined. Another portentous finding emerged in mid-August. For the first time, roughly as many Americans saw Israel as unreliable and uncooperative (42 per cent) as saw the country as a reliable ally (44 per cent). A year earlier a large majority believed Israel was a reliable ally.

These were ominous signs for Israel. Nevertheless, the lower August approvals still had not translated into any greater sympathy for Israel's opponents. In August, results on the "Israel versus the Arabs" question were virtually identical to years past: 43 per cent were pro-Israel and 43 per cent were pro-Arab (Los Angeles Times, Aug. 22-26).

These and other data suggest Israel's image might still have rebounded from the "August losses" had not two other pivotal events followed closely: Begin's strong denunciation of Reagan's peace plan and Begin's controversial response to the massacre of Palestinians in Beirut. The public opinion consequences were far-reaching. Three key shifts can be

identified.

First, negative views toward Begin became much more widespread. Second there occurred the first major surge in the number of people who expressed outright sympathy for the Arabs in preference to Israel. Third, sentiment favouring strong U.S. pressure on Israel increased substantially.

No other Israeli prime minister ever came close to the negative ratings given Menachem Begin. An ABC News/Washington Post poll of Sept. 24-26 showed only 26 per cent holding a favourable opinion of Begin with 47 per cent unfavourable and the rest uncertain.

More critical was the new tendency to blame Israel for Begin's policies. Previously, there had been little correlation in attitudes toward Israel and attitudes toward Begin. (In fact, Israel's ratings had actually improved somewhat during the same 1977-1981 period of increased American apprehension about Begin's policies). But, starting in August, Israel's image dropped in tandem with Begin's.

Americans overwhelmingly concluded that Israel was now linked to — and injured by — Begin. A Gallup poll of Sept. 22-23 found that 70 per cent of all Americans surveyed believed "Begin's policies are hurting support for Israel in the United States". Jewish Americans were even more emphatic about Begin's damage: 78 per cent of those surveyed in Gallup's special large sample of Jews (Sept. 22-23) also agreed that "Begin's policies" hurt support for Israel in the United States.

Americans had resisted that linkage for five years, but it may be that Begin had been in power long enough that he no longer seemed "temporary". For years reporters had told Americans that Begin was popular in Israel. Throughout the summer of 1982, Americans were told repeatedly that Israel's overwhelmingly and enthusiastically approved Begin's offensive in Lebanon. By August and September, many Americans had stopped distinguishing Israel from Begin's image.

The most stunning product of the new linkage of Begin with Israel was an unprecedented surge in the number of Americans who aligned themselves with the Arabs in opposition to Israel. From the 1967 war until Begin came to power in 1977, the share of Americans who said they sympathised more with the Arabs stayed in the minuscule range of 3 to 8 per cent. Under Begin's tenure, the pro-Arab proportion had climbed into the teens but had never exceeded 18 per cent. As late as the third week in August, the Los Angeles Times poll pegged the pro-Arab share at 13 per cent; other August

polls showed 18 per cent as pro-Arab.

In late September all of that changed. Two major national polls conducted between Sept. 22 and 26 asked the same question: "In the Middle East situation, are your sympathies more with Israel or more with the Arab nations?" In both polls, nearly three out of every ten Americans surveyed sided with the Arabs over Israel. In the new Gallup poll, 28 per cent supported the Arabs. In the ABC News/Washington Post poll, 27 per cent were pro-Arab. The polls differed, however, on the proportions who identified with Israel.

The astonishing Gallup finding was that only 32 per cent said they favoured Israel. Given this survey's sampling error of 5 per cent, there was no statistically significant difference in the proportion favouring the Israeli and Arab sides — 32 vs. 28 per cent, respectively. The ABC News/Washington Post poll, on the other hand, showed a much smaller drop in support for Israel — 48 per cent, down from 55 per cent in March.

Some columnists have argued that the anti-Begin demonstrations and editorials in the wake of the Sabra and Shatila massacres ought to reestablish some distance between the image of Israel as a nation and the image of the current prime minister. Yet Americans who have made that link still see Begin in power with the apparent support of most of his countrymen. It seems unlikely that a few demonstrations will be sufficient to reconstruct the barrier protecting Israel's image from Begin's image.

In addition to the first significant realignment, September brought a newfound public willingness to punish Israel. In the past, Americans had usually resisted options such as cutting off aid, even when they objected to certain Begin policies. Again, the old logic was not to risk hurting the state of Israel because of problems with the current prime minister. This logic was increasingly rejected.

The ABC News/Washington Post poll in late September found 59 per cent agreeing that the United States "should stop supplying Israel with military arms," while only 35 per cent disagreed. In the Gallup poll at that time, 50 per cent favoured suspending or reducing aid "in order to force a pullout of Israeli forces from Lebanon", 38 per cent opposed those sanctions.

Again, it is important to remember that a plurality of Americans are still definitely concerned about Israel's fate and that there has been no complete turnaround in American attitudes.

Nevertheless, a plurality now say American foreign policy "leans too much in favour of Israel" (ABC News/Washington Post) and are willing to talk to the PLO (Gallup); only 9 per cent want to see the West Bank under full Israeli sovereignty (Gallup).

In 1977, Seymour Martin Lipset and William Schneider estimated that there was a hard core of 25 per cent of Israeli supporters in the American population and that the rest of the support was "soft" in varying degrees. Many of the recent findings give their view added credence. In late September, 26 per cent were favourable to Begin; 24 per cent of all Americans surveyed agreed that the "most appropriate role for American Jews" was to "support Israel's government regardless of the Israeli government's actions".

To a large degree, the hard-core supporters of Israel still represent what Lipset and Schneider called "the only 'veto group' in the American electorate concerned with the Middle East" because of the intensity of their commitment to Israel. Thus, although policy makers may feel a little less restraint, U.S. political dynamics may not immediately change as much as the poll shifts first suggest. Yet the strong champions of Israel are themselves acutely aware of the implications of a new opinion climate and the direction of current trends.

In September, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) wrote its friends:

The PLO and their supporters have chosen the battlefield — it is not Lebanon, although that is where the guns have been fired. The real battlefield is Washington D.C., and on the night news. For that is where the hearts and minds of the American people will be won. And that is where Israel's future may be determined.

Due to the Begin-Israel linkage, the hearts and minds of Americans are vulnerable to persuasion and events as never before. Altogether 81 per cent of the American public thought Israel bore at least partial responsibility for the massacre in Beirut — 49 per cent said "partial responsibility" and 32 per cent said "Israel is very much responsible" (Gallup). Only 8 per cent agreed with Begin that Israel bore no responsibility for the tragedy.

Yet fundamentally, the opinion changes of September were not so much because Americans had decided to hold Israel responsible for the Beirut massacres. The transformation started in August when many Americans decided the time had come to hold Israel responsible for Menachem Begin.

— Public Opinion

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SPORTS

Kenyans dominate Budapest international athletics meet

BUDAPEST (R) — Kenya's powerful track squad, even without evergreen Mike Boit, dominated all the men's events from 800 metres to 5,000 metres at the Budapest Grand Prix international athletics meeting Friday night.

On this showing against top class competition at the first new-style permit meeting to be held in East Europe, they must rate as a formidable force at the Helsinki World Championships in just over a week's time.

The tandem partnerships of Paul Kipkoech and Jackson Ruto in the 5,000 metres and Joseph Muraya and Paul Kipkemboi in the 1,500 strode to easy-flowing Kenyan victories in both events.

Kipkoech and Ruto hammered all opposition, with Kipkoech winning in 13 minutes 33.60 seconds. Muraya and Kipkemboi coasted along at the head of the field in the shorter event, blocking any attempted challenge, and Muraya won in 3:40.81.

Saoray Koskei demonstrated Kenyan killer instinct in a hairbreadth win in the 800 metres over Cuban Alberto Juantorena, double Olympic gold medalist in Montreal in 1976.

The Kenyan challenged Juantorena on the final bend and moved fractionally ahead until the Cuban lengthened his stride and drew a good two metres clear going up to the finish.

The 10,000 crowd were already applauding what looked like being Juantorena's second 800 metres win in 48 hours, following a victory in Leipzig, East Germany, on Wednesday night.

But Juantorena, making a comeback after injury and illness, eased up for a fraction of a second. Koskei sensed the momentary lack of concentration and produced a tremendous burst of speed to win by three hundredths of a second in 1:46.43.

Paul Narracott of Australia won the 200 metres but all other men's track events went to Americans. Mel Lattany took the 100 in the absence of world record-holder Calvin Smith and Ed Moses continued his long unbeaten sequence in the 400 metres hurdles.

Soviet, Bulgarian and Polish squads were prominent in the women's and field events, although East European countries have generally frowned on permit meetings, which were approved last year by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) and introduced this year.

Organisers of these meetings are allowed to pay appearance money to the national federations of certain top athletes.

The Czechoslovak Communist Party's official newspaper earlier this month condemned the innovation as a breach of the amateur sport code, and no Czechoslovak athletes competed.

Soviet European champion Olga Mineyeva won the women's 800 metres in 2:00.33 from Bulgaria's Tonka Petrova. But Soviet Olympic Champion Jaak Uudmae

could finish only third in the triple jump behind Hungarians Bela Bakosi and Tibor Kiss.

The small but tremendously enthusiastic Canadian squad produced outstanding performance and the women were particularly successful.

Angella Taylor won the 100 metres, Marita Payne the 400 and Angela Bailey the 200. Bailey's time of 22.94 seconds earned her the vote for the outstanding woman performer of the meeting.

The men's award went as expected to hurdler Moses, the Budapest crowd's eternal favourite. They started applauding before he reached the starting block and kept on right up to the end of a lap of honour after he had reeled off his customary victory in 48.50 seconds.

Vilas, Clerc advance to singles quarterfinals

NORTH CONWAY, New Hampshire (R) — Argentines Guillermo Vilas and Jose-Luis Clerc cruised to easy victories Friday night to advance to the men's singles quarterfinals of a \$200,000 international tennis tournament.

Second-seeded Vilas conducted a baseline barrage to score a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Stanislav Birner of Czechoslovakia, and third-seeded Clerc used powerful service returns to dispatch Spain's Juan Aguilera 6-2, 6-3.

Vilas kept Birner at the baseline with deep groundstrokes and allowed the 26-year-old Czechoslovak just one service game in the opening set. His blasts to the corners produced third and ninth game breaks in the second set and his match victory.

Clerc combined a blazing serve and volley game with angled groundstrokes that produced third and seventh game breaks in the opening set and a decisive final game break for the match. The straight-set victory was Clerc's 12th consecutive match triumph during which he has captured 24 of the last 25 sets.

In earlier third-round play, unseeded American Jim Gurfiein upset seventh-seeded Henri Lecointe of France, 7-5, 7-6.

The 22-year-old Gurfiein scored "my greatest ever" victory over Leconte, ranked 22nd in the world, with deft sideline strokes. He gained a decisive 12-game service-break to take the opening set and after battling to six-all took the match-deciding tie-breaker 6-2.

Tenth-seed Mel Purcell of the U.S. beat Italy's Claudio Panatta 6-3, 3-6, 6-0 on a rain-soaked court. The 24-year-old Purcell made opportune rushes to net to produce seventh and ninth game breaks in the opening set.

"The court was unbelievably slow," Purcell said. "The balls were fuzzy and heavy. I knew that we'd be out there hitting all day if I didn't get to net for some points."

His aggressiveness carried him to a 3-2 games lead in the second set, but the unseeded Panatta answered with a pair of sideline passing shots from 30-all to produce a critical seventh game break and broke again in the ninth to take the set.

Zico arrives in Italy

MILAN, Italy (R) — Brazilian soccer star Zico, whose four million dollar transfer from Flamengo of Brazil to Udinese of Italy nearly sank under Italian football regulations, arrived here Friday to join his new club.

As staff at Milan's Malpensa airport tried to assemble all his eight suitcases, Zico went to greet about 100 chanting and flag-waving fans, sparking a stampede in which an old woman was knocked over but not seriously hurt.

The world-famous midfielder will join Udinese at their summer retreat in the mountains of northeast Italy and is expected to play in a friendly match on Sunday against Hajduk Split from neighbouring Yugoslavia.

"I want to play the whole match," said Zico, who expects to stay in Italy for two or three years before returning to Flamengo to finish his career after the 1986 World Cup.

The Italian Olympic Committee earlier this month overturned a ruling by the football federation that the transfer could not go ahead because it was made indirectly, through a London-based financial company. The reversal came just as Flamengo were about to tear up the contract.

Zico said on Friday the lengthy dispute had not tired him "because the problems were Udinese's. I waited for the question to sort itself out and now here I am."

Foreign stars add colour as Bundesliga cuts costs

FRANKFURT AM MAIN (DaD) — The highest transfer fees this year in West German soccer have been paid for foreign stars. Bayern Munich have paid DM1.8m for Soren Lerby of Denmark; they hope he will fill the gap left by Paul Breitner, who retired at the end of last season. VfB Stuttgart also paid over DM1m for Dan Corneliusson of Sweden in a bid to challenge for Bundesliga championship honours.

About 30 foreign players from 11 countries will be under contract to the 18 Bundesliga clubs in the 1983/84 football season. Most come from Denmark. Lars Bastrop and Allan Hansen of Denmark won championship medals with SV Hamburg last season.

There are overseas stars too. They include Yasuhiko Okudera of Werder Bremen and Bumkun Cha of Eintracht Frankfurt, from Japan and Korea respectively.

Apart from the transfer fees paid by Munich and Stuttgart the Bundesliga clubs seem determined to cut costs in the season ahead.

Gunter Netzer, manager of German league champions and European Cup-winners Hamburg, says the clubs have seen sense: "Pushing up transfer fees and players' earnings had to stop. I feel sure it will not be to the detriment of German soccer."

World number three Andrea Jaeger of the United States bounced back to her best form to crush her compatriot Leslie Allen 7-5, 6-0 in the \$250,000 women's indoor tennis tournament at the Hordern Pavilion here.

Allen began the match with a good chance of reaching Sunday's final of the round-robin tournament having already beaten American Pam Shriver and Britain's Sue Barker.

But Jaeger, surprisingly beaten by Shriver Friday night, recovered

superbly. She broke Allen in the 11th game and held serve in the 12th to take the first set and then raced away with the second in just under 30 minutes.

World number two Chris Evert Lloyd, beaten by West Germany's Sylvia Hanika on Friday, also found her touch to beat Australia's Wendy Turnbull in straight sets.

Lloyd will meet Shriver in the final. She swept aside Barker in emphatic style in a match which lasted less than an hour.

Soviet Litvinov going for gold and record

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet hammer thrower Sergei Litvinov says he will set a world record if that is what it takes to win a gold medal at the World Athletics Championships in Helsinki next month.

Litvinov, from the northern city of Rostov-on-Don, said he was prepared to improve on the mark of 84.14 metres he set at the Soviet Spartakiad last month and throw 85 metres if needed.

"In training I've achieved this quite often. Therefore I don't think my latest record will stand for long," the 25-year-old athlete told a Moscow newspaper.

"I think it will be broken this summer even. I suppose it will most probably happen at the first World Athletics Championships in Helsinki."

Less bulky than many hammer-throwers, Litvinov develops immense rotation speed within the circle and completes the traditional four swings with tremendous energy.

Like his technique, the temperament of the blond powerhouse is flawless. He seldom cracks under pressure and keeps cool even against his toughest rivals.

Litvinov, who is 1.80 metres tall and weighs 97 kilos, has been involved in top-class hammer-throwing for some 10 years.

In 1976, at the age of 18, he joined the Soviet junior team and three years later was selected for the senior squad.

In May 1980, the young army officer set his first world record with a throw of 81.66 metres. But he had to be content with a silver medal at the Moscow Olympics two months later behind his friend and rival Yuri Sedykh.

Sedykh blasted out a world record 81.80 with his first throw which was enough to retain the title. Litvinov threw 80.64 but his next five efforts were all no-throws.

But in June last year Litvinov

unleashed a mighty heave of 83.98 metres to beat Sedykh's world mark by more than two metres.

Litvinov and Sedykh are likely to dominate next month's competition in Helsinki but most experts believe Litvinov has the edge.

His convincing win at this summer's Spartakiad dispelled any lingering doubts about his fitness which caused concern just before last year's European Athletics Championships in Athens.

Although considered a near-certainty for gold in Athens, Litvinov arrived there seriously ill after losing six kilos as a result of food poisoning just one week before his departure.

He managed to win a bronze behind Sedykh and Igor Nikulin as the Soviet Union swept the medals.

The Spartakiad showed he is back to his best and ready next month to underline the Soviet Union's near monopoly in the event.

Hamburg, Gremis to meet in World Club final

BONN (R) — European soccer champions Hamburg of West Germany are to meet their South American counterparts Gremio Porto Alegre of Brazil in the World Club Championship final in Tokyo, the West German sports agency S.I.D. said Saturday.

But the date for the match has yet to be fixed. Hamburg have still to find a date to play European Cup Winners' Cup holders Aberdeen of Scotland in the European Supercup. The Scottish team's programme is clogged with mid-week fixtures.

Gremio won the Libertadores Cup to become South American champions this week when they beat current World Club Champions Penarol of Uruguay 3-2 on aggregate.

Previous world club finals in Tokyo have been played in December. But Hamburg's advertising manager Wolfgang Beyer said: "The only thing that's certain is that Tokyo is where we'll be playing."

Helmski (R) — Ticket sales for the inaugural World Athletics Championships, which open here in eight days time, have been going well, organisers said.

The last two days of competition are already sold out but tickets are still available for other days in the week-long championships.

Nearly 50,000 people are expected to watch competition in the stadium, venue of the 1971 European Championships, every day. Temporary seating has been erected to accommodate them.

But up to 1.5 billion people in 140 countries are expected to watch the proceedings on television.

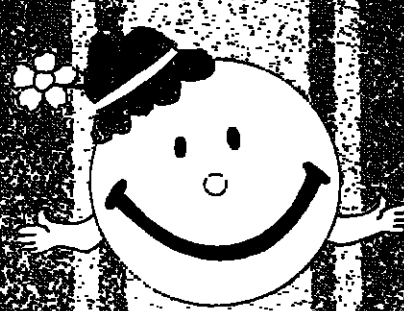
Roberts-Spencer duel continues

SILVERSTONE, England (R) — Three times world champion Kenny Roberts of the U.S. gave his rivals due warning that he intends collecting title number four this year in Saturday's final practice for Sunday's British 500cc Motorcycle Grand Prix.

Roberts, champion from 1978-80, rode his Yamaha round the Silverstone circuit at an average speed of 192.70 kph to clock a time of one minute 28 seconds. 1.38 seconds quicker than world championship leader 'Fast' Freddie Spencer, also of the U.S.

The two Americans have dominated the current season and appear set for another private duel on Sunday.

Spencer, 21, from Louisiana, made a great start to his first full Grand Prix season when he rode his Honda to victory in the first three races and then finished first in two of the next four.



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WORLD

Nicaragua reports attack by unidentified aircraft

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaragua, target of mounting U.S. military pressure, Saturday reported an air attack near the port of Corinto and said a U.S. warship approached its coast in an "offensive and provocative" attitude.

A foreign ministry communiqué said an unidentified aircraft flying from Honduras had fired three rockets at the island of El Cardon, two kilometres southwest of the port of Corinto, on Thursday.

The ministry said the rockets had missed their target and exploded in the sea, causing no damage or injuries.

The U.S. government has said Soviet weapons have been unloaded in Corinto for Managua's left-wing government, which it accuses of exporting Marxist revolution to the rest of Central America.

Nicaragua's report of the air attack came after the United States announced last week it was sending two powerful naval battle groups to Central America where they would hold manoeuvres with Honduras next month.

The communiqué said the U.S. frigate "Clifton Sprague 992" had cruised to within 15 miles of the Nicaraguan coast two days before the air attack "in an attitude clearly provocative and offensive to

Nicaragua's national sovereignty."

The same day, the communiqué said, four T-33 aircraft from Honduras had overflown the northern frontier province of Nueva Segovia in violation of Nicaraguan air space.

"These incidents confirm again the grave threats facing Nicaragua as a result of the militaristic and bellicose policies pursued by the Reagan administration and its allies in the region," the communiqué said.

Nicaragua and Honduras have been drifting towards all-out war because several thousand right-wing U.S.-backed insurgents are operating in Nicaragua from bases in Honduras.

The conflict lent urgency to a meeting in Panama between the four countries of the "contadora group" and foreign ministers of five Central American nations, including Honduras and Nicaragua.

Nicaragua's angry reaction to the U.S. show of force, which

apart from the naval manoeuvres includes planned war games involving 4,000 troops, has cast doubt on the prospects of success in Panama City, diplomatic analysts said.

Splits evident

PANAMA CITY (R) — Costa Rica has joined the conservative allies of the United States in Central America in accusing Nicaragua of trying to impose communism throughout the turbulent region.

The charge was made by Costa Rican Foreign Minister Fernando Volio during a recess in nine-nation peace talks aimed at averting war between Nicaragua and Honduras, the closest ally of the United States in Central America.

Diplomatic analysts said the accusation, in a television interview Friday night, broke the appearance of harmony at the conference which brings together foreign ministers of the four "contadora" countries and five Central American nations.

The sharp attack echoed similar charges by the Reagan administration and contrasted with previous Costa Rican efforts to cooperate with neighbouring Nicaragua and reduce tension with its left-wing government.



GUNS NOT FOR SALE: Newsmen examine a cache of submachineguns that were among the arms displayed at the Federal office building in New York City last week. They were among \$2 billion in illegal arms, including tanks, attack helicopters and other weapons offered to Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agent by men who were subsequently arrested by the agents who posed as representatives of the Irish Republican Army and the Iranian government. (A.P. wirephoto).

Master of Spanish film passes away in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (R) — The death of Luis Buñuel, one of cinema's great directors, has been greeted with sadness here by fans who remember the blend of individualism, humour and irony that characterised his work.

Buñuel, who died Thursday of cirrhosis of the liver at the age of 83, was a prolific and controversial director whose films often attacked the Roman Catholic Church.

Born in Spain, he came to Mexico in 1946 with a group of Spanish exiles from Franco's fascist rule and remained a life-long opponent of right-wing repression.

Buñuel, a pioneer of surrealist thinking, came into contact with French and Spanish surrealists in the 1920s and worked in Paris for French director Jean Epstein.

His first production was "un chien andalou" (1929), a 24-minute series of unrelated images written in collaboration with Salvador Dalí during a three-day exchange of fantasies.

It was an instant critical success, but critics are still arguing over its meaning. Buñuel himself said none of them had yet realised that he and Dalí diligently excluded scenes which could be said to mean anything.

"L'Age d'or", a strongly left-wing film, created an uproar when it was first shown in Paris. The rightist press campaigned against it, the film was banned and all copies seized.

Sri Lanka reimposes curfew to curb riots

COLOMBO (R) — Troops stepped up patrols Saturday in curfew-bound Colombo after the worst bout of bloodshed to hit the riot-torn capital since violence flared in Sri Lanka last weekend.

At least 33 people were killed and 300 suspected looters arrested in Colombo Friday amid a sudden upsurge in the ethnic unrest that has plagued the city over the past week.

The fresh trouble, in which government spokesman Douglas Liyanage said many houses had been gutted, broke out during a relaxation of the curfew Friday.

The capital, its curfew reimposed until Sunday, appeared calm Saturday morning as troops with rifles and sub-machineguns stepped up patrols in the worst-hit areas.

Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa said in a speech Friday night on state radio that political opponents were using the unrest to spread rumours and try to undermine the economy.

"Those who could not take power by the ballot are now resorting to the use of the bullet to achieve their ends," he said.

Speaking in the official language Sinhalese, spoken by the majority community on the island, the prime minister said: "everyone knows the measures the government has been taking for the economic development of the country and to generate more employment."

"This created a sense of jealousy among those sections who failed to secure power during the presidential election and the referendum."

Presidential elections were held in October when President Junius Jayewardene was re-elected for a second term. His government's

term was extended till 1989 in a referendum in December.

Mr. Premadasa did not spell out which parties he was referring to but political analysts said he probably meant left-wing groups. He also appealed for calm and promised that law and order would be maintained at all costs.

The violence which has engulfed the island started with an attack on an army patrol by guerrillas fighting to establish a separate Tamil state in the North. They killed 13 soldiers.

Reprisal attacks in Colombo and other parts of the island by Sinhalese left charred wrecks of scores of offices, shops and restaurants owned by Tamils. The Tamils, who originally came from South India, number about 2.5 million on an island of some 15 million.

The race riots have left a trail of destruction across much of the island and according to official figures at least 120 people have died, with unofficial estimates going much higher.

On a trip to the central highland town of Kandy Friday, Western correspondents found large parts of the city centre gutted and all shops closed.

The government spokesman did not say how many people had been injured during Friday's flare-up but the health ministry appealed on the radio for blood donors, saying hospitals in the capital urgently needed supplies.

The spokesman said looters were taking advantage of the unrest. Security forces had shot dead 15 people and more than 300 alleged looters had been arrested.

A government statement denied rumours that Tamil guerrillas had made a bomb attack in the capital and said the city was safe.

Gandhi returns to Delhi for talks on Sri Lanka

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi Saturday cut short an up-country visit and flew back to Delhi for talks with her foreign minister just returned from Sri Lanka.

Mrs. Gandhi, who was in the northeastern state of Sikkim, spoke by telephone with Foreign Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao about the Sri Lanka situation and then decided to come back to Delhi a day ahead of schedule, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported.

Mr. Rao himself returned early Saturday after a one-day visit to India's island neighbour, torn by

violence between Sinhalese and the minority Tamil community which has strong ethnic and cultural links with South India.

Details of Mr. Rao's talks with Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene and Foreign Minister Shabul Hameed are not yet available. Mr. Rao went to Sri Lanka amid growing Indian concern, especially in the South, about attacks on Tamils.

Mrs. Gandhi was quoted as saying in the Sikkim capital of Gangtok Friday night that the situation was basically an internal problem of Sri Lanka.

Colombian landslide death toll said up to 150

BOGOTA (R) — Up to 150 people are feared to have died in an avalanche of rocks and mud in eastern Colombia, Red Cross officials said Saturday.

Rescue workers freed 19 injured people and recovered 23 bodies Friday night from the tonnes of mud that engulfed three bus-loads of construction workers and some 200 metres of road near the construction site of a hydroelectric dam in Cundinamarca Province, 80 kilometres east of here.

Four of the injured suffered multiple fractures and were taken by helicopter to Bogotá's military hospital, the officials said.

Rescue teams sent to the scene of the landslide on Thursday night were buried under a second landslide when the mountainside crumbled as they were digging for the trapped workers.

NEWS IN BRIEF

4 Belgians hurt in cafe shooting

BRUSSELS (R) — Four people were slightly wounded Saturday when a gunman opened fire at a village cafe in the Fournes area, a focus of tension between Flemish- and French-speaking Belgians. Police said the gunman escaped after firing 11 shots through the window of the cafe in Fournes-Le-Compte, hitting two men and two women customers. The cafe is frequented by French-speakers, who form a majority of the east Belgian commune's 4,000-strong population, although it is part of the Flemish administrative region.

Maoist guerrillas burn tourist centre

LIMA (R) — Maoist guerrillas have set fire to the biggest tourist centre in the Andean province of Ayacucho, causing more than \$1 million worth of damage, police said Friday. They said a column of about 500 members of the Sendero Luminoso (shining path) group invaded the Lusiana Hacienda on Wednesday morning, overpowered the 100 or so people working there and set fire to the buildings. The Hacienda, 70 kilometres south of the provincial capital of Ayacucho, is reputed to be one of the most exclusive tourist resorts in the area.

Spanish general allegedly arrested

MADRID (R) — The second-in-command of the army garrison in Spain's North African colony of Melilla has been arrested for "irregular conduct", a Spanish newspaper reported. A defence ministry spokesman said he could not confirm the arrest. The independent daily El País, quoting semi-official sources, said Gen. Juan Giraldez Davila, 61, had been placed under eight days' arrest by his commanding officer. This was for an unspecified offence relating to the July 18 anniversary of the start of the 1930-39 Spanish Civil War. Eight officers were sanctioned recently after the socialist government said it would not permit unrest in the armed forces.

Wife saves husband from crazed bull

LONDON (R) — Farmer's wife Brenda Wigley saved her husband from a crazed bull by repeatedly ramming the animal with the family car. She went to the rescue in the family Volvo when she heard Howard Wigley's cries for help from a field in their central England farm and Belper, Derbyshire. "I must have rammed the bull 30 times," said Brenda, 46. When the bull turned its rage on the car her husband was able to scramble into the back seat and they drove off. Friday night Howard was critically ill in hospital.

Chinese minister arrives in Bangkok

BANGKOK (R) — Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian arrived Saturday for talks with Thai officials on matters of common concern including Kampuchea. Diplomatic sources said the presence of Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea and a joint strategy to keep the Hanoi-installed Phnom Penh government from the United Nations were key issues likely to dominate the discussions. After a brief rest, Mr. Wu was due to hold the first of two scheduled rounds of talks with Thai Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila. On arrival from Pakistan for a three-day visit, his first to Thailand since taking office late last year, Mr. Wu said he hoped his talks with Siddhi would strengthen the already good relations between their countries.

Manila drops major charges on German

DAVAO, Philippines (R) — The government has dropped charges of conspiracy to commit rebellion against a West German arrested in the southern Philippines last March, the provincial prosecutor said. Volker Schmidt, 41, from Hamburg, would be charged only with illegal possession of subversive literature, an offence carrying six months imprisonment on conviction, he said. Schmidt, described as a pastor and a freelance journalist, has been detained in a military stockade in Davao City.

Nicaraguan rebel leader talks tough

TEGUCIGALPA (R) — A U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebel leader has said Central American peace talks are a smokescreen and the United States would be prepared to launch a military strike against Nicaragua if asked by a multilateral organisation or a Central American government.

Edgar Chamorro told Reuters in an interview: "The writing is on the wall. Either the Sandinists negotiate now or the U.S. comes in militarily."

Chamorro, the most prominent of the seven-member directorate of the Nicaraguan Democratic Forces (FDN), said the U.S. would launch a military strike against Nicaragua if asked by a multilateral organisation or a Central American government.

"The U.S. has said that as long as there is no solution to the problem of Nicaragua, there can be no political stability in Central America. In practice that means the Sandinists have to go," he said.

The FDN makes up the bulk of right-wing forces, estimated to number at least 7,000, whose Honduran-based operations have brought Nicaragua and Honduras to the brink of war.

Chamorro dismissed peace efforts by nine Latin American foreign ministers meeting in Panama City as a smokescreen.

"They have to try diplomacy first. It's like washing one's hands before dinner. It's a mere ritual," he said.

Chamorro drew a parallel between the present crisis and U.S. intervention in the Dominican Republic in 1965, saying that Washington planned similar action now.

"Remember that during the

intervention in Santo Domingo the U.S. sent 25,000 troops while all of Latin America sent only 3,000. We are arriving at a similar situation," he said.

Ostensibly, the U.S. intervened in the Dominican Republic on behalf of the Organisation of American States (OAS).

Chamorro said he did not expect a U.S. House of Representatives vote on Thursday ordering Reagan to stop covert aid to the insurgents to affect U.S. support for the rebels.

He argued that the Senate, dominated by Reagan supporters, was unlikely to approve the House of Representatives' amendment, which would also need the president's approval to become law.

There is growing doubt over the combat effectiveness of the rebels against the well-trained and well-

armed Sandinist army.

In February, when some 2,000 rebels infiltrated Nicaragua, their leaders including Chamorro predicted that they would spark a general insurrection and oust the Sandinists "within 60 days."

Friday Chamorro painted a considerably less optimistic picture. "We haven't done anything spectacular like taking a town such as Jalapa or Ocotol (in northern Nicaragua)," he said.

"To take such towns is very costly. The Sandinists have responded to our offensive by sending massive numbers of people... in Ocotol, we had a unit of 200 men and they sent 1,500."

Chamorro said he would consider returning to private life in Miami, where his family lives and the FDN was formed, unless the insurgency produced results soon.

Zimbabwe's notorious 5th Brigade withdrawn

HARARE (R) — The Zimbabwe army's controversial North Korean-trained Fifth Brigade is believed to have been withdrawn from troubled Matabeleland Province, Western diplomatic sources said Saturday.

They said they understood the withdrawal was completed last weekend and the brigade was rebasing in the Midlands, on the northern edge of Matabeleland.

The Fifth, a specialised anti-insurgency brigade, was deployed in the province in January to crush rebels officially said to be fighting

to overthrow the government and replace it with an administration led by self-exiled opposition leader Joshua Nkomo.

Independent church and welfare organisations and ZAPU have accused the Fifth Brigade of waging a terror campaign throughout Matabeleland, killing and maiming hundreds of civilians.

Prime Minister Robert Mugabe has dismissed the charges and praised the Fifth Brigade for efficiently bringing the rebellion under control.

Chilean court backs politicians

SANTIAGO (R) — Chile's supreme court Friday night said that peaceful anti-government protests were not a crime and upheld a lower court decision which released from jail former Foreign Minister Gabriel Valdes and five others.

By four votes to one, the court rejected an appeal by the military government of President Augusto Pinochet which sought to have the lower court ruling overturned.

Diplomats said the supreme court ruling cleared the way for more anti-government protests. Opposition spokesmen have mentioned Aug. 11 as a probable date for the next protest.

The case arose from charges under internal security laws against two young members of the banned Christian Democratic Party and the owner of a printing press who were arrested with 700,000 pamphlets advertising a day of protest on July 12, the third in as many months.

The judge investigating the charges summoned Valdes, the president of the banned party, and two other prominent politicians as witnesses and then ordered their detention in solitary confinement on suspicion of being involved in the case.

Actors pay tribute to Niven's 'talent and humour'

LOS ANGELES (R) — Film actor James Stewart has described the late British actor David Niven as a man of wonderful humour and remarkable talent.

"I knew David Niven for many years and his wonderful spirit was evident in all his many portrayals on the screen," Stewart said. "When the Second World War broke out he was the first to go back to England and he served his country magnificently."

"His remarkable talent for acting was aided by his great ability to write. Both were blessed by a wonderful humour which was part of the man," said Stewart.

Niven died Thursday at his home in Switzerland. He was 73.

A spokesman for fellow British actor Roger Moore, who recently completed his latest James Bond film, "Octopussy", said Moore was very distressed at the news and was driving from southern France to Niven's Swiss villa to pay his final tribute.

In London, actor Anthony Quayle, who first met Niven more than 20 years ago when they starred in "The Guns of Navarone", said: "He was a wonderful, dear man with a merry heart."

He said he once asked Niven how he could always be so cheerful, and Niven replied: "Well, old bean, I try to be because I think the world is so bloody bloody. I think you have a duty to be cheerful."

Quayle said Niven sent him a "funny little note" from hospital recently, saying: "Whatever you do, don't get this disease. I can't talk, I can't write, I can't do anything."

Quayle said his first thought on hearing the bad news was a line from Shakespeare: "There's a great spirit gone."

British film director Bryan Forbes, a friend of the Nivens who was with the couple a few weeks ago, said the actor was "one of the funniest and nicest men you could ever meet."

He said: "To be on a set with him was a constant joy. He was, I think, a very underrated actor because he made everything seem so simple whereas, of course, it never is."

Forbes said Niven would be remembered with fondness and respect.

In Los Angeles, British actor Michael Caine said: "It's a sad day for me because he was a good friend. Thank God we have his films to remind us of his talent."

A veteran Hollywood publicity agent, Howard Seaman, said Niven had a flair for publicity.

"We threw a publicity party for one of David's films and he arrived late with beautiful Swedish twins on either arm. The next day that picture was in all the newspapers," Seaman said.

U.S. crimefighters focus on Japanese syndicate

LOS ANGELES (R) — The Japanese Yakuza criminal syndicate, a target of President Reagan's new commission on organised crime, is pouring millions of dollars into illegal and respectable businesses on the U.S. West Coast and in Hawaii, police said Friday.

They said the Yakuza, a mafia-type organisation, has more than 100,000 members, mostly in Japan. Its "soldiers" or strong-arm enforcers often have one half of a little finger cut off as a sign of membership.

The Yakuza, which moved into Hawaii in the early 1970's and has since spread its tentacles to the U.S. West Coast, is engaged in prostitution, drug trafficking — mainly in amphetamines obtained from Korea — gambling and pornography, police said.

From its illegal activities, the organisation is investing millions of dollars in land and buildings and in legitimate businesses in Hawaii and the United States, they added.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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HAVE FAITH IN PARTNER

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Void
♥ QJ109753
♦ A83
♣ Q42

WEST EAST
♠ KJ92 ♠ 74
♥ 74 ♥ AK8
♦ Q754 ♦ 10962
♣ 10863 ♣ A975

SOUTH
♠ AQ108653
♥ 62
♦ KJ
♣ KJ

The bidding:
South West North
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♥ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♥ Double
4 ♠ Double Pass Pass
Pass
Opening lead: Four of ♠.

... is a partnership game. It means, among other things, that partner is entitled to play some of the hands!

World champion Bob Hamman once said: "I have never put a seven-card spade suit down in dummy." However, we feel that he would have

changed his mind had he been South on this hand. In any event, it seems that South could have been one of Bob's disciples, for he stuck to his spades.

The result was almost too gruesome to describe. West led his singleton heart. East took his two top hearts and led a third round, and West overruled the eight with the nine. He led a club to his partner's ace, and sat back to collect two more trump tricks. That was 800 to East-West.

There is no excuse for South's bid of four spades. North had already heard him bid spades three times, but still persisted with four hearts. And South held two trumps for his partner, when he might have had none. The trump break in hearts was going to be better than North had any right to expect. A pass was clearly indicated, and four hearts would have been easy as pie.

In passing, there is only one kind thing that can be said about East's double of four hearts. It did drive South to four spades!

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.